-1.09¢

LOONIE PLUNGES, INTEREST RATE CUT, BUT BANK OF CANADA SAYS 'IT'S NOT A TRUE RECESSION'

metroBUSINESS

Toronto metro

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015 High 23°C/Low 15°C Mainly sunny

ONESIE DIRECTION

BOY BAND SINGER TO BE A DAD

metroLIFE

NATHAN DENETTE /THE CANADIAN PRESS

RED, WHITE & BLACK

Canadian Ellie Black shows off the five medals she won at the Pan Am Games. More in metroSPORTS.

YOUR metro DAILY PAN AM MEDAL COUNTER 33 30 19 MEDALS WON BY CANADA

Kanye West heads north

PAN AM GAMES

Rapper tagged to play closing ceremonies at Rogers Centre

Kanye West will headline the Pan Am Games closing ceremonies, organizers announced Wednesday.

The U.S. rapper, along with Toronto-born artist Serena Ryder and Cuban-American Pitbull, will play the show at Rogers Centre on July 26. As of Wednesday morning, there were still 15,000 tickets remaining.

"If this just doesn't get you excited and you don't think there's going to be a party in Toronto on the 26th of July, we have nothing left for you," said organizing committee CEO Saad Rafi.

The announcement is a huge get for Games organizers, who have been on the defensive about lagging ticket sales and apathy around the event.

"(Closing ceremonies) are another iconic moment in the Games, to celebrate athletes, to celebrate volunteers and to celebrate the people of this region who are starting to really embrace these Games," Rafi said.

Ryder, who performs the Games anthem, is an important addition to the show, Rafi said.

"We cannot say enough about Canadian talent like Serena Ryder," he said. "(Hers is) just a magnetic voice."

West, who is known for elaborate stage productions, will bring his regular complement of dancers and accompanying musicians, said Emmanuel Patterson of Live Nation, who is organizing the show's musical component.

The two-hour show will include an athlete parade, speeches and artistic segments focused on the theme of unity through diversity, said Nuckolls.

"The party element is going to be good," he said. "We've got some really, really talented performers, some great scenic elements, fantastic music … so it's going to be an exciting night. And course it will be capped off with a fantastic fireworks finale."

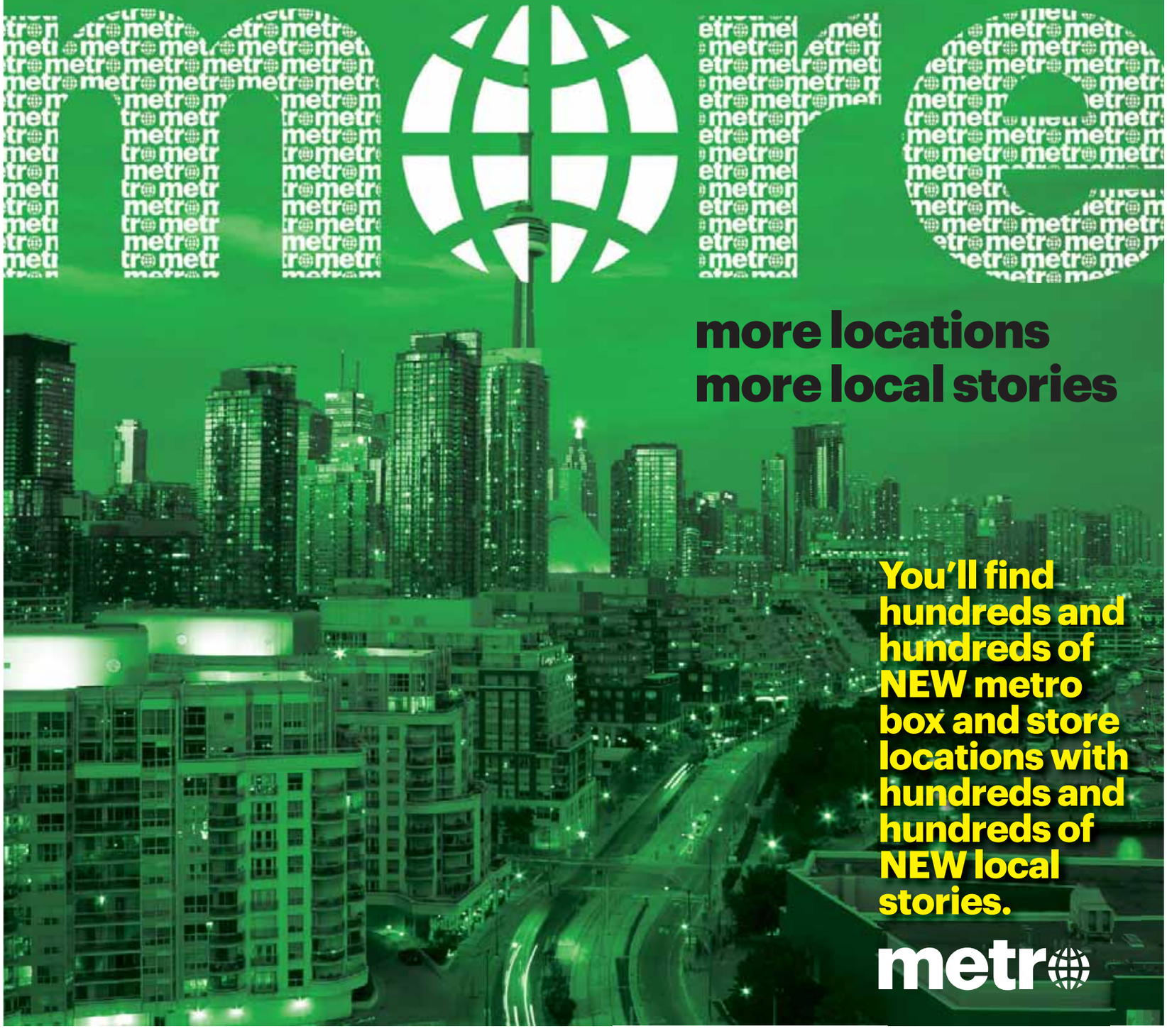
Tickets for the Pan Am Games closing ceremonies start at $90 and are available through Ticketmaster.

The closing ceremony, which kicks off at 8 p.m. on July 26, will be broadcast live on CBC.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GETTY IMAGES

get



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metro NEWS
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Riots erupt on deadline day for Greece. **World**

Two shops on board for 'healthy corner store' plan

ACCESSIBILITY

Food project run by Toronto Public Health

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

An initiative spearheaded by Toronto Public Health is stocking convenience store shelves in the city with fresh, healthy food.

The "healthy corner store" concept is one of a handful initiatives run by the health department's Food Strategy team.

Two east-end convenience stores are already on board as part of a pilot project, and their experience will help expand the concept to other stores across the city.

The goal is to make healthy food accessible to residents who don't live near a grocery store or supermarket, said Brian Cook.

Cook said many convenience stores are surviving with the old model of selling cigarettes, TTC tokens and lottery tickets.

"To a greater extent, it's not very helpful to the communities," he said.

"That's why we're trying to negotiate with owners to maybe sell healthier foods, and in a profitable way."

Cook's team conducted surveys throughout the city, examining what the food needs are and what the communities would like to have near them.

Hermiz Homi, Manager of Four Seasons Farm.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

The collaboration with the two pilot stores — Four Seasons Farm in East York and Lucy's Fresh Food Market in Scarborough — connects them with fresh food distributors and helps rebrand the stores as places where people can find healthier foods, said Cook. The project is already in talks with other stores, based on information about which areas of the city are food deserts.

"We're not going to Rosedale or something," said Cook, adding it's important to find the right partners, and continue to spread the change.

"You can pour all the money into it but if the owner is not championing it, then nothing really matters."

FOOD SWAMP

Areas that lack easy access to healthy food, like fresh fruits and vegetables, are often referred to as "food deserts." However, Toronto Public Health's Brian Cook isn't fond of the term.

"I actually don't use that term often because it's not a good metaphor for Toronto," he said.

"There are only a small number of lower income areas that don't have a supermarket of some kind within one to two kilometres."

Instead, Cook prefers the term "food swamp," which refers to the idea that Toronto's retail food scene is "dominated by less healthy food choices."

HOW TO...

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More than 500 new boxes will be added to Toronto streets and across the 905 in the next month.

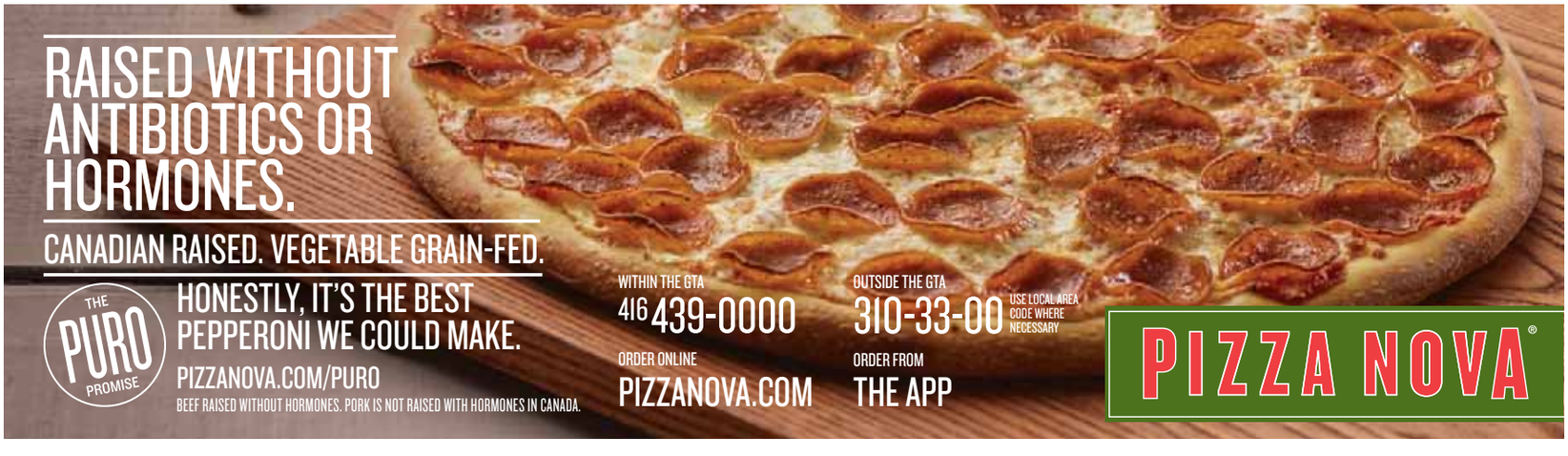
The paper will no longer be available inside the subway, but boxes will be added outside stations across the region.

Plus, you'll be able to pick up a copy at new retail locations, including grocery stores, coffee shops and restaurants.

In fact, there are way too many new spots for us to list here.

Check our searchable map at metronews.ca/boxes.

COMICS CLASSIC CARTOONS FROM 1946 FOUND After more than 60 years hidden under the floorboards of a Kitchener home, a stack of comic strips published by the Toronto Star in 1946 has made its way online. The funny folios were sent to Toronto cartoonist and illustrator John Martz in 2008, after a woman found them while doing a home renovation. Martz rediscovered the comics during a recent move and uploaded scans of them to Flickr. "They were in amazing condition," he said. Popeye, Superman, Dick Tracy, Tarzan, and others are still in bold colour, unyellowed by sunlight. "Newspapers don't care about comics they way they used to ... it's been supplanted by TV and the Internet." CHRIS BATEMAN/FOR METRO
PHOTOS: JOHN MARTZ/FLICKR



Getting into the Zone

Metro summer series Visitors to the city and Hogtowners alike would be sorry to miss a trip to the Ontario Celebration Zone in and around the Toronto Harbourfront Centre. Throughout the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, the eclectic facility will offer 38 nightly concerts, a 400-foot zipline, a 40-foot rock climbing wall, dozens of kid-friendly activities and a plethora of food and bevvy options for the peckish. **LIZ BEDDALL** METRO

1 Posting it
Charles Luib and Liezel Sia add their well wishes to the WishMeLuckOn art installation.

2 Reach for the top
Angelo, 10, makes his way up the rock wall at the Ontario Celebration Zone.

3 Going down
A brave visitor repels across the Ontario Celebration Zone using the facility's zipline.

4 Virtual medallists
Elliot, 11, and William, 8, of Sweden, enjoy a virtual-reality soccer game.

5 Fresh fare
Fresh fruit and vegetables line the kiosks along Queens Quay and Lower Simcoe.

6 A cold one
Nykeem pours a beer at the Ontario Celebration Zone's Deck Bar.

7 Wine time
Laura Howarth takes a sip of a wine sample from a booth run by Greenland Estate Winery.

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2009 Corolla CE

Bi-Weekly 60 months **$128** | All in Price* **$12,995**

2011 Camry XLE

Bi-Weekly 72 months **$159** | All in Price* **$18,888**

2012 4Runner SR5

Bi-Weekly 84 months **$251** | All in Price* **$33,995**

Venza V6 AWD Premium Pkg

Bi-Weekly 72 months **$194** | All in Price* **$22,995**

5 to choose from '10 - '12

2012 Venza V8 AWD Touring

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Selfies welcome at the ROM

MUSEUM

New guide pokes fun at selfies oft gone wrong

Next time you say cheese at the Royal Ontario Museum, do it in style, recommends a new selfie guide put out by the Toronto attraction.

The light-hearted guide pokes fun at selfies oft gone wrong, advising visitors to "look closely" when mimicking a statue, avoid snapping shots in the bat cave, where low lighting ruins photos, and make sure heads line up with well-placed antlers mounted on walls for creative snaps.

Reminders to visitors such as "when taking a selfie in costume don't get too crazy, wear only one costume at a time, please" and "when attempting to take a selfie with a dinosaur, please ensure the dinosaur is actually in the shot" serve as a departure from stuffy rules long associated with museums, which have been known to discourage outrageous behaviour for the sake of a snap.

A safe selfie guide Russia put out this year — after a hundred people were injured and a handful died while taking selfies — was the inspiration, ROM spokesperson Cheryl Fraser told Torstar News Service.

A huge increase in amateur photography in the museum — especially in front of dinosaur skeletons, Roman statues and the recent Pompei exhibit — also had the museum wanting to remind visitors that the attraction is "photo friendly," she said.

"The ROM has a great backdrop for taking photos," Fraser said. "We have always wanted to be a fun and inspiring space."

That attitude differs from the string of attractions across the globe — New York's Museum of Modern Art, Rome's Colosseum and London's National Gallery — that have recently cracked down on photography by banning selfie sticks, amid safety concerns.

Because few have been sighted at the ROM and none have caused any concerns, Fraser said, they are allowed to stay and aid in capturing visitors with the attraction's priceless treasures.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

How to snap it just right: scenes from the ROM's guide to taking selfies.
COURTESY ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

IN THE GUIDE

Some ROM 'rules'

1. Mimicking a statue can be fun. Look closely at the statue to make sure you get it right. When roaming the corridors of the museum's ancient Egypt exhibit, be sure to channel your inner Cleopatra or get your pharaoh on!

2. When attempting to take a selfie with a dinosaur, please ensure the dinosaur is actually in the shot.

3. The stairs in the Museum are a safety first, not a selfie first zone.

4. Well-placed antlers provide fun photo ops. Make sure to line yourself up with the antlers properly to ensure the highest quality selfie. Otherwise, what's the point?

5. When taking a selfie in costume, don't get too crazy, wear only one costume at a time, please. The museum's Pompei exhibit gives visitors the chance to don togas or channel their inner gladiator in warrior gear, but mixing both probably constitutes a fashion faux-pas.

6. Lighting is an important element of photography: take your selfies in well-lit areas. #batcave

7. Goggles must always be worn at the dinosaur dig — even when taking selfies. Safety first!

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OIL SPILL

OPP charge driver in truck crash

The OPP have charged an Alberta man with careless driving after a transport truck rolled over on Highway 427 and spilled thousands of litres of mineral oil out onto the roadway and surrounding area Monday, some of which ended up in Mimico Creek.

A flatbed truck carrying three electrical transformers was travelling southbound on the Highway 427 ramp to westbound Highway 401 around 6:42 p.m. Monday when the driver did not properly negotiate the curve, according to the OPP. The truck rolled over and at least two of the transformers, which contained around 2,878 litres of mineral oil each, spilled their contents onto the road and surrounding area.

The Ministry of Environment attended the scene and supervised a cleanup, but it's believed that some of the oil entered a storm sewer system and then Mimico Creek Tuesday morning. Dozens of ducks were coated in the oil and prompted a duck-rescue and creek cleanup effort that included Toronto Fire, Toronto Animal Services, Toronto Wildlife Centre, the Ministry of Environment and a number of volunteers.

It is unclear how much of the oil ended up in the creek.

The driver of the truck was taken to hospital with minor injuries and the ramp was closed until 4:47 a.m. Tuesday for repairs.

Barry Kirkham, a 54-year-old man from Sherwood Park, Alta., has been charged with careless driving. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The scene on Highway 427/401 on Monday.
PHOTO VIA TWITTER/OPP SGT. KERRY SCHMIDT

Long wait for carcass clearing

CADAVER CALLS

City says it tries to pick up dead animals within 24 hours

After a raccoon came to his untimely end at Church and Yonge streets last Thursday, some wits had 14 hours to build him a shrine before he was scooped up by Animal Services. The memorial included burning candles, a framed portrait of "Conrad the Raccoon" and a cigarette placed ever-so delicately in his front-right paw.

The time it took city staff to show up might seem long, but it isn't by Toronto standards.

Between July 1, 2014, and June 30 of this year, Animal Services has responded to nearly 11,000 cadaver calls. City spokesman Siobhan Ramsey said the average response time was 17 hours — more than three times the duration of the average Jays' game last season. The city said it doesn't keep data on the wait time by ward.

It can take a while for animal services to clear road kill because other calls take priority over carcass removals, said Fiona Venedam, a supervisor with Animal Services.

A makeshift crime scene is set up on Church Street, where a dead raccoon was found and left for over 13 hours before being picked up by a city worker. LIAM CASEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers will see to injured animals, dogs fighting or a stray animal darting in-and-out of traffic before picking up a rotting raccoon.

They try to pick up a dead animal within 24 hours, but don't always meet their target.

Ed Cunningham, a TTC maintenance worker, waited 36 hours — from the morning of July 13 to the late afternoon the next day — for a crew to arrive and bag a dead coon next to a bus shelter at Eglinton Avenue and Banff Road.

"By the time I contacted (311) again yesterday it had a good colony of flies on it and it was starting to stink," he said.

Usually, the task of cleaning up road kill falls to the night crew — which works from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. — because it's safer to clear away dead animals at night, when there is less traffic.

Leaving a putrid animal carcass out on the street for hours on end poses no real public health hazard — aside from the risk of insect and rodent infestations.

17

City spokesman Siobhan Ramsey said the average response time was 17 hours — more than three times the duration of the average Jays' game last season.

But it ain't pretty.

If animal services had more staff, they would be able to respond to calls more quickly, Venedam said. Most nights, there are two or three animal services workers on patrol. Sometimes they are shorthanded because of vacation time and sick days.

Operators at 311 prioritize calls and give the crews instructions about where to find a cadaver. The animal services worker bags the dead animal and brings it to the closest of two crematoriums, in Islington or Scarborough.

It's not a job for the faint of heart, Venedam said. "Nobody likes picking up a cadaver that's full of maggots. But that's typical in this climate, especially this time of year when it's warm out."

Although the job can be messy, it also has its advantages.

"It's fulfilling when you catch a dog running at large and you're able to reunite it with its owner," she said.

Until Conrad the Raccoon, Venedam hadn't seen any memorials to road kill.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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It can be scary to see your teenager get behind the wheel for the first time. It can also be scary to see a jump in your insurance rates when you add them to your policy. Prevent a shock by comparing rates at **InsuranceHotline.com**.

Finding peace and power on the stage

PERFORMANCE

Unity Charity gives youth an outlet for their surging stress

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Michael Prosserman couldn't keep up with stress at age 13, so he decided to break into breakdancing.

His parents were splitting up, so he wanted to use his new passion as "an expressive outlet" for all the challenges he was facing, he said.

It worked.

"Breakdancing allowed me to beat up the floor so I could focus on school and real life," said the 29-year-old York University grad.

"It was my outlet for stress and anger."

The success he found in breakdancing — he won competitions across Canada, played in the Jessica Alba movie Honey and got a job offer from Cirque du Soleil — prompted him to create Unity Charity.

The organization seeks to empower youth through art and runs after-school hip-hop and performance projects in cities across the country.

"Our goals are to teach youth to manage their stress, set positive goals for their future, develop empathy and become leaders," said Prosserman.

Confidence is exactly what a group of girls from the Jane and Finch community gained from classes at the Freedom Dance Academy, a program affiliated with Unity.

> **We want to teach youth to transform their anger into art.**
> Michael Prosserman

Some of them have poor relationships with their parents and started out with bad attitudes, said Jessica Dubeau, professional dancer and founder of the program.

"Dancing helps keep them out of trouble and makes them feel better. And they can finally do well in school, which is great."

FESTIVAL

The Unity Festival, an annual four-day celebration of hip hop and dance, will kick off July 22 in Toronto.

The final concert will take place at Yonge-Dundas Square, featuring international headliners GZA, Babeli, Marlon and D'bi Young.

Right: Jessica Dubeau at dance practice with some of her students. They will be performing at next week's Unity Festival.
Below: Local hip-hop artist Mobi Mawla practises his flow for the upcoming event.
GILBERT NGABO/METRO

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BY THE NUMBERS

City pitching in $371 M for TCHC

An extra $371 million will be freed up to help reduce Toronto Community Housing Corporation's backlogged $2.6-billion repair bill, Mayor John Tory's housing task force announced Wednesday.

Officials with the city, TCHC and the task force worked together to refinance 12 TCHC mortgages that are renewing this year. The transaction is expected to be finalized by December, according to an interim report.

The task force is also taking credit for persuading Ottawa to offset penalty fees for refinancing TCHC mortgages held by Canada Mortgage Housing Corp. The federal government announced in its 2015 budget that $150 million would be made available to social housing providers as a result of the move.

"In this environment, where today we can go out and get a mortgage for 2.75 per cent, we had mortgages on some of these properties for 11 per cent," Tory said. "This program and the penalty forgiveness is not a solution, but it will help us."

This program ... is not a solution, but it will help us.
Mayor John Tory

The additional money will be used to repair roofs, elevators, balconies and parking garages in the agency's aging social housing stock, Liberal Senator Art Eggleton, who heads the six-person task force, told reporters Wednesday.

TCHC houses more than 110,000 tenants and is the second largest residential landlord in North America. On average, TCHC buildings are more than 40 years old, "the majority … reaching the end of their useful lives," the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis said in a 2015 report. Without investment in repairs, by 2023, 91 per cent will be in poor or "critical condition," or will be closed due to their "unsafe state of disrepair."

TCHC and the city have secured $864 million for this year, but neither the federal nor provincial governments have announced matching funds.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2,154
BUILDINGS
Number of buildings THCH owns; includes highrise, midrise and lowrise apartments, townhouses and single homes.

$2.6 B
COST
What the repair backlog will cost 10 years from now.

60,000
RESIDENTS
Number of families that call TCHC buildings home. The agency is the largest social housing provider in Canada and second largest in North America, behind New York.

42
AGE
Average age of TCHC buildings. More than 1,000 buildings are over 50 years old.

SOURCE: TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING

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LAMBDA

	Check-in	Exit
Period 1:	July 24th, 2015	August 5th, 2015
Period 2:	August 21st, 2015	September 2nd, 2015
Period 3:	September 18th, 2015	September 30th, 2015

Participants are compensated for their time.

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Police chiefs snarl at delays

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Watchdog has closed just 33% of cases in 30 days in 2014-15

Ontario's police chiefs and civilian oversight boards are urging the Attorney General to take action immediately to resolve an "unprecedented" delay by the province's police watchdog in closing cases.

The Special Investigations Unit, which probes incidents of police-related deaths, serious injuries and allegations of sexual assault, revealed this week that it only closed 33 per cent of cases within 30 days in 2014-15, the first full year under the tenure of director Tony Loparco.

That's well below the SIU's own performance standard of 65 per cent, as well as lower than the 73 per cent of cases closed under Loparco's predecessor, Ian Scott, during his final full year in 2012-13.

"Citizens involved in these incidents as well as the public at large are left to wonder if and when the SIU will provide them with answers," reads a resolution adopted in June at the annual general meeting of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

"Meanwhile, the spectre of a criminal investigation hangs over the heads of the subject officers, their colleagues and their families for an inordinate length of time. Ultimately, police and public confidence in the system itself is eroding as rumour and innuendo fills the informational void."

The call to action was echoed by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards in a letter sent to Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur last week, asking her to increase resources if necessary.

"Obviously, we want (the cases) done properly, but we want things cleared similarly to the way they were a couple of years ago," OAPSB executive director Fred Kaustinen told Torstar News Service. "We want it to be faster and more effective, and if that requires more resources, so be it."

> **We want things cleared similarly to the way they were a couple of years ago.**
> OAPSB executive director Fred Kaustinen

Not only did the SIU close fewer files in 2014-15, it also opened a smaller number of cases than the previous year, 266 compared with 318, according to its annual report, released Monday.

SIU spokeswoman Monica Hudon said this week that the agency is looking at ways to improve its case closure rate. She explained that the number and complexity of cases coming forward has increased, and it's taking more time to analyze evidence, given changes in technology.

"While the SIU recognizes it is important to resolve cases in a timely manner, the thoroughness of the investigation must take precedence over the length of time it takes to finish an investigation," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

La Tanya Grant, whose cousin Jermaine Carby was shot by Peel police in Brampton last September, feels upset that the SIU has yet to complete their investigation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PEEL REGION

Brampton family waiting for answers a year later

La Tanya Grant knows all too well the frustration that comes with waiting for the SIU to conclude an investigation.

Her cousin, Jermaine Carby, was shot dead by Peel police during a traffic stop in Brampton on Sept. 24, but nearly a year later, SIU director Tony Loparco has yet to issue his final report, leaving Carby's family without answers.

The delay is also preventing them from moving forward with a lawsuit against the police, Grant said. "I'm disgusted," she said.

"I can't believe that the SIU is not being transparent, at least with my family, and giving us some type of update."

SIU spokeswoman Monica Hudon said the investigation into Carby's death is ongoing.

Police chiefs say in their resolution that, on average, it takes about nine months for the SIU to complete an investigation and for the director to issue his closing report.

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CRIME

Guard won't be charged in T.O. McDonald's shooting

A security guard who fatally shot two men in an east-end McDonald's in February will not be facing any charges because there's "no reasonable prospect of conviction," Toronto police said Wednesday.

Police have said they will not release the security guard's name because he was never charged with anything.

Toronto police were called to a McDonald's at 1735 Danforth Ave. around 3 a.m. on Feb. 28 after reports of a shooting. According to police, two men were "involved in a physical confrontation" inside the restaurant with an armed security guard who was working nearby. The security guard shot at both men.

Donny Ouimette, 25, and Ryan Hind, 39, both from Toronto, were pronounced dead on scene. The security guard was taken to hospital to be treated for a "firearm-related injury," and Toronto police homicide investigators took over the case.

Police announced Wednesday morning that after a "comprehensive investigation ... It was determined that there would be no reasonable prospect of conviction, therefore no criminal charges will be laid." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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IN BRIEF

Pedestrian struck by SUV

A female pedestrian is in life-threatening condition after being hit by a sport utility vehicle in North York Tuesday night.

Toronto police were called to Buckingham Avenue at Dinnick Crescent, near Yonge and Lawrence, at 9:37 p.m. According to police, a woman was crossing the intersection when she was struck by a black SUV. She fell, hit her head on the ground and was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eyes on the skies for Pan Am

WEATHER

Scientists set to warn Games of ill winds or noxious air

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

Almost every day during the Pan Am Games, a fleet of specially equipped Environment Canada weather cars will cruise through the city.

David Sills and a team of meteorologists are watching everything from lightning strikes to wave heights in an effort to learn more about local weather and help ensure the Games go off without a hitch.

"Things like thunder storms, high winds, heat stress, pollutant levels — these are all things that likely affect the decision-making as far as the Games go," said Sills, who helped design the Automated Mobile Meteorological Observing Systems (AMMOS).

Unlike fixed weather stations, the AMMOS vehicles can better track moving weather fronts and provide hyper-local readings.

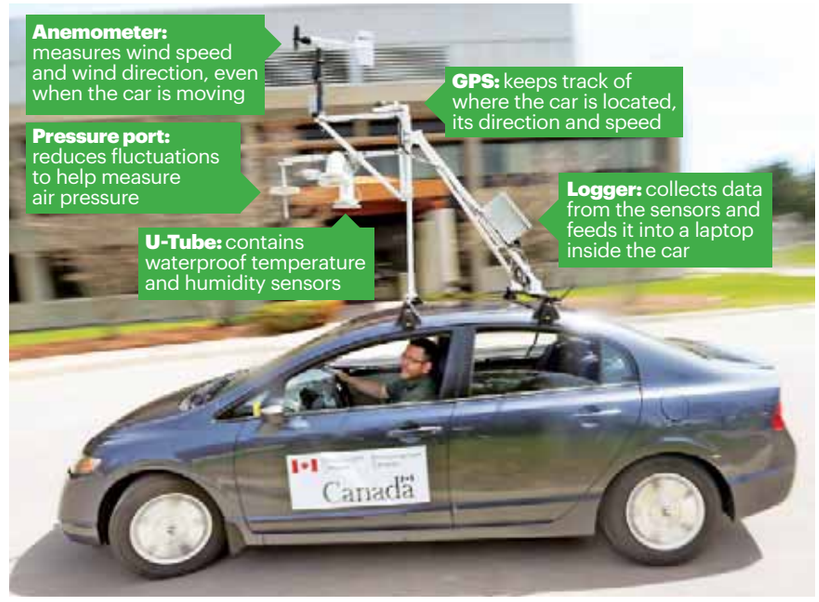
Greg Evans from the University of Toronto is also combing the air. He and Jeffrey Brook, a research scientist with Environment Canada, have co-developed AirSENCE, an inexpensive system of air-quality sensors that has been deployed at Pan Am sites around the GTA.

The athletes might think their performance depends on diet, fitness and training alone, but Evans says air quality is also a critical and overlooked factor.

After the Pan Am Games, AirSENCE is headed to Beijing, where it will track the city's notorious smog. The researchers are even considering mounting sensors on bicycles.

THE NETWORK. Sensors dot local landscape

The AirSENCE devices measure real-time air quality at Pan Am sites around the city. "The sensors react with air pollutants. By combining (data) from the different sensors, we can estimate the concentration of those air pollutants," Evans said. Then the data is crunched by a central computer to produce an Air Quality Health Index rating.


Anemometer: measures wind speed and wind direction, even when the car is moving
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Canada

THE CARS. Useful tech — if not stylish or aerodynamic

Three of the $25,000 AMMOS devices are making runs on Dufferin, Yonge and Warden during the Pan Am Games, attached to government-owned Honda Civics. Some weather data will be used by Games staff — for example, in determining how the temperature and humidity might affect athletes.

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Cuban rowers win silver then defect to the U.S.

PAN AM GAMES

4 members of national team cross border after event

Four Cuban rowers have defected from the Pan American Games and travelled to the United States, their coach said Wednesday.

Liosmel Ramos and Wilber Turro dropped out before the regatta began on Saturday, while Manuel Suarez and Orlando Sotolongo competed in earlier races and then withdrew, said coach Juan Carlos Reyes. The four have been in touch with teammates through Facebook, Reyes said.

The Games rowing venue in St. Catharines, Ont., is only a few kilometres from the U.S. border.

Games officials said Wednesday morning that they weren't aware of the defections.

"I'm not aware of the specific point but we have a protocol that we would follow. This is something that is dealt with through our integrated security unit and if necessary, through the relevant national Olympic committee," said Games CEO Saad Rafi.

Cuban refugees can apply for permanent residence a year after being cleared that they have no criminal or prior immigration history, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement.

Before defecting, two of the rowers had won silver medals at the Pan Am Games: Sotolongo, 18, placed second in the men's quadruple sculls, as did Suarez, 25, in the men's coxless fours.

Turro, Ramos and Suarez won gold together in the men's lightweight coxless four at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Mexico.

Dozens of athletes, many from Cuba, have defected during international sports events over the years.

Eight members of the Cuban delegation defected when Canada last hosted the Pan Am Games in 1999. When Winnipeg first staged the Games in 1967, a Cuban boxer defected shortly after winning a gold medal.

Two players from the Cuban women's soccer team defected in 2011 after facing off with the Canadian team in Vancouver in an Olympic qualifying match. They reunited with relatives in the U.S. And three Cuban soccer players fled to the U.S. the night before a World Cup qualifying match in Toronto in the fall of 2012. They now play for a professional league in Charleston, S.C.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defector Orlando Sotolongo, left, with his silver medal teammates. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We have a protocol that we would follow.**
> Games CEO Saad Rafi

VOLUNTEERISM

Medal honours giving

A new official honour has been created to recognize Canadian volunteers.

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers will be awarded to those who have made a significant, sustained, unpaid contributions to their community.

Governor General David Johnston announced the establishment of the new medal — which replaces the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award — Wednesday, following its approval by the Queen. He says the medal will emphasize Canada's commitment to giving.

The last federal budget gave the governor general an additional $2.8 million per year to update Canada's existing honours system in a bid to bring it more into the modern era.

The Sovereign Medal will bear two intertwined hearts, symbolizing generosity and the action of caring, while its ribbon will incorporate the blue and gold colours of the prior governor general's award while adding a deep red colour to represent the sovereign. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sleep tight; the robots don't bite

JAPAN

Humans have few essential jobs at hotel, like security

From the receptionist that checks in and checks out patrons to the porter that's an automated trolley taking luggage up to the room, this hotel in southwestern Japan, aptly called Weird Hotel, is almost totally "staffed" by robots to save labour costs.

Hideo Sawada, who runs the hotel as part of an amusement park in the city of Sasebo, in Nagasaki prefecture, insists using robots is not a gimmick but a serious effort to utilize technology and achieve efficiency.

The receptionist robot that speaks in English is a vicious-looking dinosaur, and the one that speaks Japanese is a female humanoid with blinking lashes.

"If you want to check in, push One," the dinosaur says. The visitor still has to punch a button on the desk and type in information on a touch screen.

This fierce-looking dinosaur is Weird Hotel's English-speaking receptionist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Henn na Hotel, as it is called in Japanese, was shown to reporters Wednesday, complete with robot demonstrations, ahead of its opening to the public Friday.

Another feature of the hotel is the use of facial-recognition technology instead of the standard electronic keys. The digital image of the guest's face is registered during check-in.

> **I wanted to highlight innovation.**
> Hotelier Hideo Sawada

The reason? Robots aren't good at finding keys if people happen to lose them.

A giant robotic arm, usually seen in manufacturing, is encased in glass quarters in the corner of the lobby. It lifts one of the boxes stacked into the wall and moves it out through a space in the glass, where a guest can place an item in it.

The arm will put the box back into the wall until the guest wants it again.

The system is called the "robot cloak room."

Why a simple coin locker won't do isn't the point.

"I wanted to highlight innovation," Sawada told reporters. "I also wanted to do something about hotel prices going up."

Staying at Henn na Hotel starts at 9,000 yen ($80 US), a bargain for Japan, where a stay in one of the nicer hotels can easily cost two or three times that much.

The concierge is a doll-like hairless robot with voice recognition that prattles breakfast and event information. However, it cannot call a cab or do other errands.

Japan is a world leader in robotics technology, and the government is trumpeting robotics as a pillar of its growth strategy. Robots have long been used in manufacturing, but interest is high in exploring the potential of robots in human interaction, including helping care for the elderly.

Robotics is also key in the decommissioning of the three damaged reactors in tsunami-ravaged Fukushima. They went into meltdown in 2011, in the world's worst nuclear catastrophe since Chernobyl.

One area Henn na Hotel still relies on human beings is security. The place is dotted with security cameras, and real people watch everything through a monitor to make sure guests stay safe and no one makes off with one of the expensive robots.

In the hotel's rooms, a lamp-size robot in the shape of a fat pink tulip called Tuly answers simple questions like, "What time is it?" and "What is the weather tomorrow?"

You can also tell it to turn the room lights on or off; there are no switches on the walls.

Sawada cancelled at the last minute the overnight stay planned for media. The robots simply weren't ready.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Greece votes for austerity

BAILOUT

Protesters hurl petrol bombs at police as harsh bill debated

Greek lawmakers voted overwhelmingly early Thursday to approve a harsh austerity bill demanded by bailout creditors, despite significant dissent from members of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' left-wing party.

The bill, which imposes sweeping tax hikes and spending cuts, fuelled anger in the governing Syriza party and led to a revolt against Tsipras, who has insisted the deal forged after a marathon weekend eurozone summit was the best he could do to prevent Greece from catastrophically crashing out of Europe's joint currency.

The bill was approved with 229 votes in favour, 64 against and six abstentions — and won the support of three pro-European opposition parties.

The vote came after an anti-austerity demonstration by about 12,000 protesters outside parliament degenerated into violence as the debate was getting underway Wednesday night. Riot police battled youths who hurled petrol bombs for about an hour before the clashes died down.

Protesters march in front of the Greek parliament in Athens Wednesday as lawmakers began debating reforms needed to unlock a new eurozone bailout. LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The bill was the first step Greece must take in order to begin negotiations with creditors on a new bailout — its third in five years — of about 85 billion euros ($93 billion) in loans over three years.

> **I don't know if we did the right thing.**
> Euclid Tsakalotos, Finance Minister

Dissenters argued that Greeks could not face any further cuts after six years of recession that saw poverty and unemployment skyrocket and wiped out a quarter of the country's economy.

Tsipras has been battling all week to persuade party hardliners to back the deal.

"We had a very specific choice: A deal we largely disagreed with, or a chaotic default," he told parliament ahead of the vote.

Tsipras had urged Syriza members to back the bill despite having urged voters to reject earlier, milder creditor demands in a July 5 referendum.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said the deal Greece reached with its creditors on Monday was the only possible choice.

"I must tell you, that Monday morning at 9:30, it was the most difficult day of my life. It was a decision that will weigh on me for the rest of my life," Tsakalotos said.

"I don't know if we did the right thing. But I know we did something with the sense that we had no choice. Nothing was certain and nothing is," he told parliament.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO WRITE-OFFS

German officials concede the IMF may be right in saying that Greece's debt is too big to pay, no matter how many years it gets to pay it. Still, they exclude any write-offs. Here's why:

1. It's taxpayers' money, and these are elected officials in a country where bailing out Greeks for previous profligacy is not popular.

2. The European Union treaty forbids countries from taking on each other's debts.

3. Give one country a break, and others may wonder why they can't have one, too.

4. Future eurozone governments may look at the debt writedown and feel less compelled to keep debt under control.

5. Since its first bailout in 2010, Greece has been promising reforms. Somehow it never quite gets done.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SPACE

Scientists amazed by Pluto

Scientists have released the first up-close images ever of Pluto and its big moon Charon. And they say they're amazed.

The long-awaited images were unveiled Wednesday in Maryland, home to mission operations for NASA's New Horizons spacecraft.

A zoom-in of Pluto reveals an icy range about as high as the Rockies. To the scientists' great surprise, there are no impact craters. On Charon, deep troughs and canyons can be seen.

New Horizons swept within 12,400 kilometres of Pluto on Tuesday, becoming Pluto's first visitor in its 4.5 billion-year existence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image provided by NASA on Wednesday shows a region near Pluto's equator. NASA/JHUAPL/SWRI VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARKS DAY AT ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK
The Canadian Wildlife Federation invites you to join Parks Canada, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Toronto Zoo, ACER, Parkbus, and others to celebrate Parks Day at Rouge National Urban Park!
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IN BRIEF

Fuel tanker crashes, explodes in tunnel

The trailer of a tanker truck with some 16,500 litres of fuel got loose Wednesday and crashed into a subsea tunnel wall, causing a huge explosion, Norwegian rescue officials said. No one was seriously hurt. Photos posted on Norwegian media show a huge black billow of smoke in the mountainous area in western Norway. The tunnel goes 91 metres below sea level.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bank of Canada Senior Deputy Governor Carolyn Wilkins looks on as Governor Stephen Poloz responds to a question during a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BoC cuts key interest rate

FINANCE

Loonie dives to post-recession low with rate reduction

The Bank of Canada cut its key interest rate on Wednesday, slashed its outlook for the economy and predicted a contraction in the second quarter due to lower oil prices and slumping exports — but the central bank governor wouldn't describe the country's economic woes as a recession.

The bank cut its target for the overnight rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 0.5 per cent, sending the Canadian dollar plunging to a post-recession low.

The loonie was down more than a full U.S. cent Wednesday afternoon to levels not seen since March 2009, when Canada was in the midst of a deep recession.

At one point, Canada's dollar was worth about 77.29 cents US, down from the previous close, but had been even lower earlier in the day.

TD Canada Trust was the first of Canada's banks to respond, though it only passed part of the rate cut as it reduced its prime rate by a tenth of a percentage point to 2.75 per cent. Moves in the prime rate directly affect the amount charged on loans such as variable rate mortgages and floating rate lines of credit.

The central bank also explained its lower outlook for economic growth — from 1.9 per cent earlier this year to 1.1 per cent — is due to Canadian oil producers cutting their investment plans by close to 40 per cent this year, compared with an earlier estimate of about 30 per cent.

"It's not a true recession, since an employment decline hasn't joined in with the tumble in output measures, but the GDP decline opened a window for a further ease by a dovishly inclined Bank of Canada governor," CIBC chief economist Avery Shenfeld said following the bank's announcement.

Slowing growth in China and non-resource exports faltering — a trend the bank described as "a puzzle that merits further study" — have also played a part in Canada's economic difficulties.

Nonetheless, Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz said exports are expected to fuel growth in the second half of the year.

The rate cut marked the second time this year that the Bank of Canada has reduced its target for the overnight rate. By slashing it, the central bank is hoping to jumpstart the economy by making it cheaper for consumers and companies to borrow money.

Economists had been split in their predictions about what the Bank of Canada would do, with most, but not all, calling for a rate cut. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Amazon hits Prime target

Amazon aimed for Christmas in July with its much-hyped "Prime Day" sale. But some shoppers found a lump of coal instead. The online retailer said Prime Day would offer bigger sales than those during the winter holiday shopping season, but some Amazon customers were disappointed by Prime Day. Some thought the discounts weren't deep enough. Early data showed the promotion boosted sales, though. Amazon said by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, the speed with which customers were ordering had already surpassed 2014 Black Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 77.40¢ (-1.09¢)

TSX 14,662.88 (+62.88)

OIL $51.41 US (-$1.63)

GOLD $1,147.40 US (-$6.10)

NATURAL GAS: $2.92US (+7.8¢)
DOW JONES: 18,050.17 (-3.41)

OUT OF WORK?
TOUGH LUCK.

Hard times are about to get harder for Canada's unemployed. Thanks to Harper's Conservatives, thousands of Canadians who paid into Employment Insurance are being cut off from benefits, negatively impacting countless communities across Canada. This government is recklessly slashing essential public services, without regard for the rights and needs of all Canadians.

HARPER'S CONSERVATIVES ARE BLEEDING OUR PUBLIC SERVICES.
VOTE TO STOP THE CUTS.

PSAC AFPC

A MESSAGE OF PUBLIC INTEREST FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA.

votetostopthecuts.ca

TOO BIG TO MISS

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SPORT

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

MEN'S FOOTBALL (SOCCER)
5:30 p.m. – PER vs BRA • PAN vs CAN
CIBC Hamilton Pan Am Soccer Stadium

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
6 p.m. – CAN vs VEN • BRA vs USA
Ryerson Athletic Centre

WOMEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL
1:30 p.m. – BRA vs PUR • ARG vs CUB
7 p.m. – CAN vs DOM
Exhibition Centre at CIBC Pan Am Park

WOMEN'S TENNIS
1 p.m. – Medal Rounds
Canadian Tennis Centre

MEN'S SOFTBALL
2 p.m. – ARG vs DOM • VEN vs CAN
USA vs MEX
President's Choice Ajax Pan Am Ballpark

CULTURE

ADONIS PUENTES & THE VOICE OF CUBA ORCHESTRA
CIBC PAN AM PARK | 1 p.m.
FREE

LUCIANO
NATHAN PHILLIPS SQUARE | 9:30 p.m.
FREE

CUTTIN' STYLE CARIBBEAN
(Outdoor Fashion Show)
HTO PARK | 7:30 p.m.
FREE

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metro VIEWS

Butt out for bucks: A New England Journal of Medicine study offered a group of smokers a cash bribe that increased if more people quit. It worked.

July 16, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE: ELLEN VANSTONE ON LITTERBUGS

THE QUESTION

While driving recently, I noticed people in the car ahead of me were throwing candy wrappers out the window. Was I right to draw attention to their anti-social behaviour?

Dear Ellen,

While driving recently, I noticed people in the car ahead of me were throwing candy wrappers out the window. At the next red light, I put my car in park, stormed up to the driver's window, and proceeded to strongly suggest they NOT throw garbage on to the street. They were extremely shocked! I actually felt kind of bad about upsetting the nice-looking group of young men and women who were clearly on their way to work.

Would it have been better to just ignore them? Or was I right to draw their attention to their anti-social behaviour?

Sincerely, Ellen.

Dear Ellen,

Okay, yes, I'm the Ellen who wrote that letter — the reason being that I feel strongly about littering and I simply cannot trust that a reader will bring up the subject eventually, or ever. It's an important topic, and I'm being completely transparent here about my agenda and my motives.

Also, the letter itself is sincere and factually accurate. I have, on occasion, gotten out of my car to remind other drivers on the road not to eject garbage from their car windows. In my expert opinion, I am perfectly within my rights to do so — I was respectful in my interaction with the litterbugs, and my actions were in keeping with the moral responsibility we all carry, which is to speak up against crimes both big and small against society rather than turn our backs on, and thus implicitly condone, destructive behaviours that hurt us all.

That being said, I do not advise any reader to follow my example. And, having thought it through, I won't do it again myself.

If they're rude or ignorant enough to litter, who knows what other distasteful or even violent tendencies they might have?

First of all, it probably isn't safe to leave your car running in the middle of the road in order to chase down another car for the purposes of delivering a lecture on urban etiquette. Secondly, you have no idea who these litterbugs might be — if they're rude or ignorant enough to litter, who knows what other distasteful or even violent tendencies they might have? Thirdly, if you have passengers in your own car, it is inconsiderate, ergo rude, to abandon them in the middle of traffic, not to mention make them fear for their own safety if the litterbugs you are lecturing do tend towards violence and decide to retaliate physically.

If, however, you happen to be on foot and run into another (non-violent-looking) pedestrian who is tossing their trash willy-nilly, don't be afraid to say something. We're not talking public shaming here, just a friendly reminder that trash goes into trash bins.

DIRTY MONEY

Bylaws vary by community and what you're dumping, but littering is illegal everywhere. See how much a careless toss can set you back in cities across the country:

Halifax: $464
Ottawa: $305
Toronto: $365
Winnipeg: $100 - $4,000
Calgary: $500-$1,000
Edmonton: $250
Vancouver: up to $2,000

Need advice?
Email Ellen
scene@metronews.ca

metroview

Pay your own way on dates: It's the feminist thing to do

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Every time I think we finally live in a progressive utopia, I see something like this Facebook post, from a female friend:

"Just went on a first date. A blind date. And had to pay. For both of us." The comments: "No more dates for that guy," "Uhhh winner!"

I find this attitude bratty, sexist and out of date. Think of how much paying for dates — even only first dates — adds up over a man's lifetime. It's only fair that ladies pay once in a while. With a few exceptions (if you suggest somewhere fancy, you pay), going Dutch should be the default.

To be clear: I'm talking about dating here. Treating your long-term partner once in a while is lovely. But by that time, you're making financial decisions as a de facto family unit. I'm also being a tad heteronormative (with same-sex dating, I'm told it's more common to split the bill).

I asked my date the other day what he'd do if a woman he was seeing never paid. He said he'd never ask, but simmer with resentment and eventually dump her. Seems time to break the taboo and communicate about money.

Conventionally, the asker pays. But if you meet online or on a dance floor and have been texting for a while, how do you even know who asked?

The lad mag Ask Men advises, "Make the first move when the bill comes. This goes not just for the first date, but the early stages of the relationship. It indicates you're responsible. Women like that."

There's no argument for men paying that doesn't boil down to sexist garbage: "It makes me feel special" (work on your self-confidence), "It shows he's serious" (try asking if he's serious) and "I deserve to be treated" (the world doesn't owe you, princess).

Several male friends I asked said whoever's the least broke should pay — fair, though impractical. But a couple said a girl who asks to split is trying to make things non-romantic.

Getting treated's not romantic. This tradition didn't evolve because of chivalry. Now the gender wage gap is narrowing for professionals without kids, but historically women didn't have their own money.

Yet nothing was free. Having your meal paid for sets up a dynamic. You get a gift, and give something in return: your time, attention or more. It's a form of social control, though most men wouldn't see it that way. They're just being nice and following norms.

Paying your way signals you're there because you want to be. Being assertive about this can be hard. So say, "I always pay my share. It's important to me." Call it a political stance. You don't want to be with someone who doesn't respect your views anyways.

So do your part to change the culture. Next time you're catching a server's eye, think of the feminists who fought for your right to men's problems — work drama, combat wounds, and now, paying for dates. Then reach for your purse.

Rosemary Westwood will return Monday

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Your essential daily news

Dan Aykroyd to join the gals in new female-led Ghostbusters movie

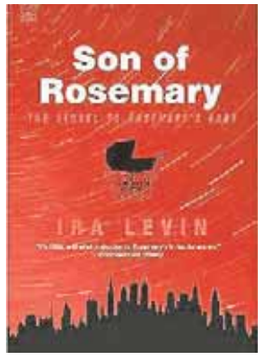
Seven classics, revisited

SEQUELS

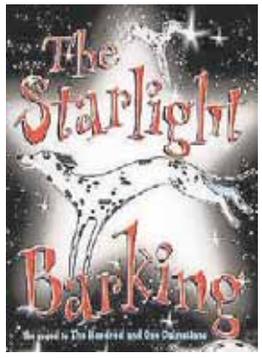
To Kill a Mockingbird isn't the only classic to get a Part Two

Asia Ewart
Metro | New York

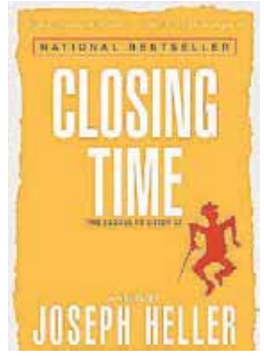
With Harper's Lee's Go Set a Watchman hitting shelves, we've rounded up sequels to some of the most popular reads of the last two centuries



Son of Rosemary
by Ira Levin
After 26 years in a coma caused by the Castevets' Satanic coven, Rosemary awakens to find that her son Adrian is now an adult trying to do good in the world, despite his evil origins. The reunion turns sinister when she learns Adrian might not be able to help who he is and the human race could be doomed.



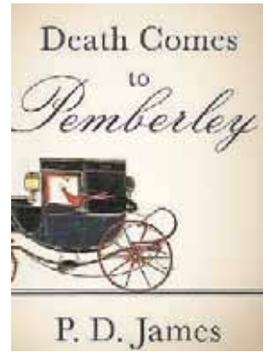
The Starlight Barking
by Dodie Smith
This sequel puts a sci-fi spin on the classic tale of an English couple and their 101 Dalmatians. When every human on Earth suddenly falls into a deep sleep, Dalmatians Pongo and Missus — along with the Prime Minister's dog Cadpig and other canines across London — must gather to discuss what to do. They are joined by an extraterrestrial dog who attempts to help by giving them an otherworldly option.



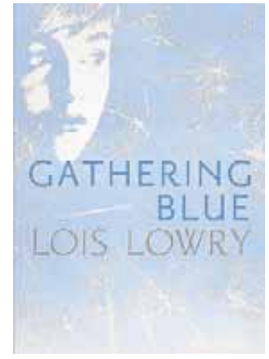
Closing Time
by Joseph Heller
Fifty years after Catch-22, Closing Time finds protagonist Yossarian as an older man at the end of his life in Manhattan. Readers can expect another stint in the hospital. Yossarian now working for Milo Minderbinder, Chaplain Tappman making an appearance, underground tunnels and a lot of talk of death.

Little Men
by Louisa May Alcott
Set after Little Women, Little Men follows second eldest sister Jo and her husband Friedrich Bhaer as they run a school for boys at the Plumfield estate. We're introduced to students, among them orphans, street youth, Jo's sons Rob and Teddy and members of the Bhaer family, and follow their interactions with each other and the world over the course of six months.

That Was Then, This is Now
by S.E. Hinton
This unofficial sequel to The Outsiders also takes place in Tulsa, Okla. and features characters from the first book. Brothers Bryon and Mark feel a strain in their relationship when they must find money for their mother's medical bills on top of dealing with girlfriends and local gangs.



Death Comes to Pemberley
by P.D. James
Although not written by Jane Austen, this murder-mystery followup was widely enjoyed and praised upon its release. Taking place six years after Pride and Prejudice, on the night of an annual ball, a family member of the Darcys and the Bingleys is killed on Pemberley grounds. The group must find out who present did it and why.



Gathering Blue
by Lois Lowry
Lois Lowry's middle school classic The Giver is actually the first of a quartet. Each follows a character connected to The Giver's Jonas. All live in villages in the same dystopian world. While all possess unique abilities, from embroidery to mind reading, it is ultimately their interactions that encourage a move to a safer community.

ON SHELVES

Harper Lee book gets mixed reviews

• Harper Lee's second novel flew out of stores Tuesday in one of the most eagerly anticipated book releases in modern publishing history.

• Lee's only previous novel is considered a 20th Century classic that defined racial injustice in the Depression-era South of the U.S. and became standard reading in classrooms across the world.

• But many Lee fans have been hurt, embarrassed and even angered that Scout's adored father Atticus has turned into a bigot, a fall from grace for one of America's most loved literary heroes. AFP

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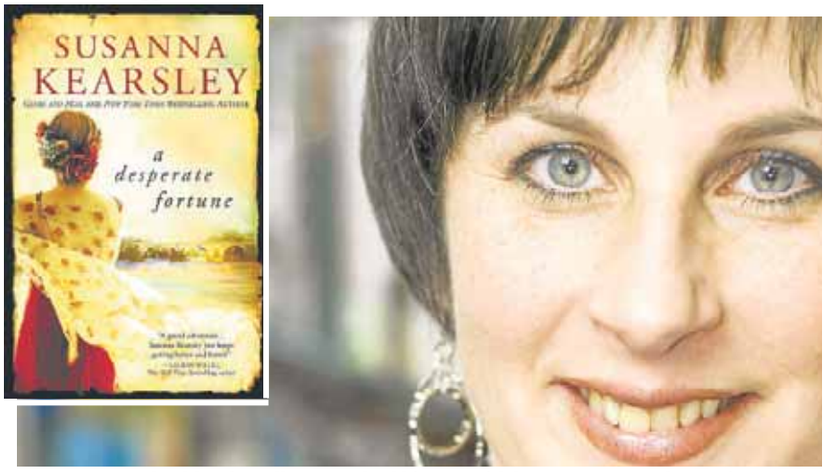
Bearing a passport to history

A DESPERATE FORTUNE

Author weaves story through travel, in-depth research

BOOKWORM
Sue Carter



Susanna Kearsley blends well-researched history with her own personal experiences to invoke a positive portrayal of a character living with Asperger syndrome in her new novel, A Desperate Fortune. CONTRIBUTED

When Susanna Kearsley writes, she describes the experience as if she has a film playing in her head.

"I'm on the main character's shoulder and I'm following along like a camera. I see what they see and I write down what they say," she says. "A lot of times the characters won't start talking until I'm standing on the spot where the characters are talking."

Those characters' words have filled Kearsley's passport with stamps from the U.K., Italy and other European locales. For her latest historical time-shifting caper, A Desperate Fortune, published by Simon & Schuster Canada, Kearsley bunked down at a gorgeous mid-1800s guest house just outside Paris. The chateau inspired the residence of the book's protagonist, Sara Thomas, a computer programmer turned amateur code-cracker, who is hired to decipher a 300-year-old journal from Mary Dundas, an exiled Scottish Jacobite who becomes involved in a dangerous plan to smuggle a lead figure of the political movement to Rome.

While Kearsley's 12 novels (including a thriller written under the pseudonym Emma Cole) are popular for their signature mix of irresistible romance, mystery and adventure, the New York Times' bestselling author is equally noted for her research and strong attention to historical accuracy.

During her travels, she studies every detail, from public transit to the smell of the air.

"The research for me is a constant really happy rabbit hole that I go down on a daily basis," she says. "You have to get the lives of the present-day people right as well, especially if it's set in a country where you're not living. You have to make sure the details are accurate, that the landscapes you're moving them through are accurate and that the jobs of the people are accurate."

It was a lesson that Kearsley took from her position as curator of a Canadian village museum, where at 22 years old, it was her job to interpret the lives of past generations.

"I try to make the past something that modern people can step into and can experience and know in a way that we can't always get out of strictly historical non-fiction. We tend to forget that people haven't changed that much. It's the ordinary lives I like to get into."

One of Kearsley's biggest — and most personal — challenges for A Desperate Fortune was to get Sara correct.

Diagnosed with Asperger syndrome as a teen, the character finds numbers soothing but experiences difficulties in many of her relationships. Kearsley drew on the experiences of her own family members with Asperger's, who acted like fact-checkers for the storyline.

"It was important for me to get that as right as possible because you don't see a lot of positive portrayals with people with Asperger's," says Kearsley. "Very often they end up being the punchline or the comic person around whom the plot evolves. I wanted to show someone who is a more accurate reflection of my own Aspies. Someone who is very competent, very intelligent; has a few challenges but is capable of having a good, relatively normal life."

Although Kearsley says, "research fuels the book and the book fuels the research," ultimately she doesn't feel the book is successful unless there's an underlying humanity.

"You want the reader to walk away having cared about the people, and maybe learned a little about the past and feel a little more connected and have it not be a place filled with starchy people you don't understand." *Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.*

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Final chapter for killer anti-hero

NOVEL TURNED TV SHOW

Dexter gets a second ending as author says goodbye

Spoiler alert: Book Dexter does not become a lumberjack.

The eighth and final novel in the Dexter series, Dexter Is Dead, now in bookstores, picks up from the end of the previous book, with the titular vigilante serial killer under arrest and facing a murder charge — ironically for a crime he didn't actually commit.

"I always knew that someday the wheels would come off," author Jeff Lindsay said.

Starting with the 2004 novel Darkly Dreaming Dexter, the series follows the exploits of Dexter Morgan, a blood spatter analyst with the Miami-Dade Police Department. Following a code developed by his adoptive father — a police officer — to only kill other killers, Dexter balances a public life of work, friends and family with his not-so-public, homicidal pastime. But now Dexter's story is coming to a climatic conclusion.

"I had all these wonderful, outrageous ideas for how it would happen, and I didn't end up using any of them, which I guess is par for the course," Lindsay said. "Your first idea, the one that gets you going, is never the one you end up with."

It's safe to assume that none of those ideas involved Dexter faking his death and starting a new life in the Pacific Northwest as a lumberjack. That's how the Dexter television series based on Lindsay's characters concluded in 2013 after eight seasons.

"Boy oh boy oh boy, did I get mail about that," Lindsay said.

While the first season of the show kept relatively close to the first novel, the plotlines of later seasons had virtually nothing to do with the books. So Lindsay could only tell irate fans, "It wasn't me."

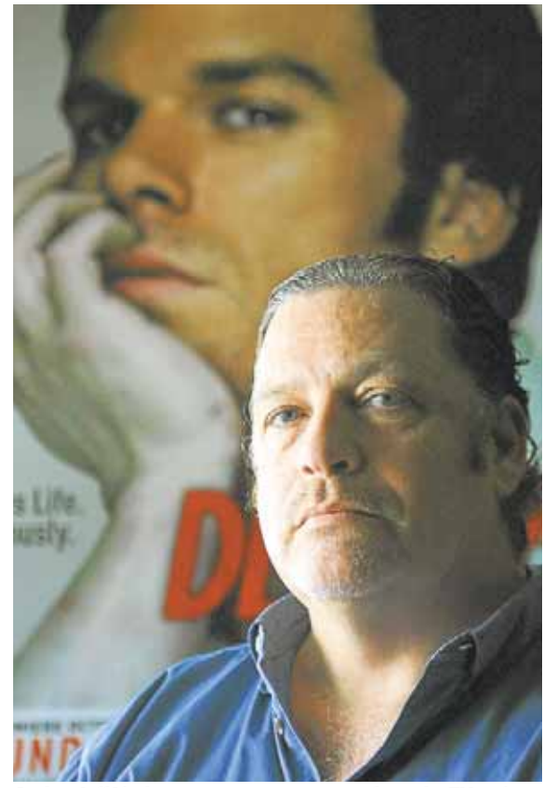
Fan reaction aside, Lindsay said he doesn't really have an opinion on the final episode because he didn't actually see it. He had just started a 10-month book tour for his previous novel, Dexter's Final Cut, and he didn't get a chance to watch the show's finale.

"So I don't have any opinion on whether it was good or bad except that TV is very, very different," Lindsay said. "The demands of that medium are very different from what is demanded in the book, and it's never going to be the same thing. I'm sure they (the show's producers) did what they thought was right."

Lindsay said he has mixed feelings about leaving a popular character and a successful book series behind.

"This is kind of what I had always wanted, to have a book series like that," Lindsay said. "And to say goodbye to it is like launching yourself into the unknown and starting over again. But it was time. I don't think it got stale, but I felt like someday soon it might start to get stale on me. Better to go out on top, leave them wanting more."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Author Jeff Lindsay poses next to a poster from the TV series Dexter at his home in Cape Coral, Fla., in 2006. The eighth and final novel in the Dexter series, Dexter Is Dead, was published on July 7. LUIS M. ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

VOICE OF DEX

Lindsay said he was never bothered by the gruesome murders or the violent psychopaths he spent more than a decade writing about. He credits this to the training he received years ago while pursuing an acting career in Hollywood.

"One of the things they taught us was how to be the wacky neighbour on the hit sitcom," Lindsay said. "It's not who you are. You go home, and you take the costume off. You have dinner with the family. And the next day, you go in and put the costume on again. And that's always the way I wrote Dexter."

While Lindsay's acting career never really took off, he did get to use his voice-acting skills by performing the audiobooks of the last four Dexter novels, starting with the cannibalism-themed Dexter Is Delicious.

"Boy oh boy oh boy, did I get mail about that

Jeff Lindsay on fan reaction to the Dexter TV series finale

5 HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK FASHION WEEK: MEN'S

New York Fashion Week has always celebrated the glamour of women's fashion, but has relegated menswear to a supporting role. This week, building on a growing public appetite for men's fashion, the industry is putting on the first stand-alone men's fashion week in New York in nearly two decades. Here are some highlights of New York Fashion Week: Men's THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Public School

The hot young brand Public School put its models in glassed rooms for a series of jailhouse lineups. "No. 3, step forward," a recorded voice commanded at one point during the packed presentation. He obliged. The spring/summer 2016 collection in the brand's signature palette of black, white, grey and navy was a mix of athletic details with crisp tailored trousers, short and long, and lapelled jackets, sleeveless and not. LEANNE ITALIE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 EFM Engineered for Motion

A summery look from EFM Engineered for Motion's S/S 2016 collection. GETTY IMAGES

3 Eponymovs By Hvrminn

Eponymovs By Hvrminn's "refined but revolutionary" take on men's fashion. GETTY IMAGES

4 Michael Bastian

Michael Bastian showed preppy looks like this one. GETTY IMAGES

5 Kenneth Ning

Two fashion-forward creations from Kenneth Ning. GETTY IMAGES

COMIC-CON

Eisenberg elaborates

Jesse Eisenberg. GETTY IMAGES

The Social Network star Jesse Eisenberg has raised more than a few eyebrows with his not-too-nice analogy for his experience of attending Comic-Con last week.

"It is like being screamed at by thousands of people," he told the Huffington Post. "I don't know what the experience is throughout history, probably some kind of genocide. I can't think of anything that's equivalent."

Yikes. But don't worry, the comments have attracted enough attention that Eisenberg has had a chance to clear up any confusion, telling the Hollywood Reporter, "I of course was using hyperbole to describe the sensory overload I experienced. I sometimes do employ that."

Well, sure. Why not? "I'm a normal person who has normal sensory experiences, so Comic-Con was very overwhelming for me. That said, it was really an honour to be on that end of such jubilation." So, all good now? NED EHRBAR/METRO

Baby news shocks fans

metroGOSSIP MUST READ

One Direction fans dismayed by report Louis Tomlinson to be a father. GETTY IMAGES

ONE DIRECTION

Tomlinson of One Direction announces he will be a dad

One Direction fans reacted with dismay Wednesday to a report that band member Louis Tomlinson is to become a father.

Publicist Simon Jones declined to comment on a People magazine report saying 23-year-old Tomlinson is expecting a child with American stylist Briana Jungwirth.

Fans responded on Twitter using the hashtag #OhNoLouis, and one wrote a song called No Birth Control teasing the boy band star. On the streets of London, reaction ranged from shock to disbelief.

"Is it an accident?" asked 16-year-old Australian fan Tara Kay. "That's crazy."

Clara Foxonet, a 16-year-old fan from France, refused to believe it. "It can't be real! It's not possible," she said.

Australian fan Kiri Deane-Spread Speir, 17, said the news was "a shock. But I am not going to get angry ... If he is happy, I am happy."

And 18-year-old Solveig Diers from Germany wondered how the news would affect the band's carefree image and its popularity with teen and preteen girls.

"It doesn't fit into their perfect picture of a boy group," she said.

The chart-topping British band was formed in 2010 after five teenagers — Tomlinson, Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Niall Horan and Zayn Malik — auditioned individually for the British TV talent show The X Factor. Simon Cowell had the idea of putting them together as a boy band.

Malik quit the group earlier this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEAL OF APPROVAL; ARMED ROBBERY

You wear it well

Rod Stewart says he's angry an image of him wearing a seal-skin coat is being used to support the industry.

The musician was in St. John's, N.L., to play a concert and stopped into a store to pick up capes for some of his crew. A message posted on his Facebook page says the shop's owner asked if he would pose for a photo in the jacket. The post says Stewart regrets he didn't check what the jacket was made of and is upset the photo is being used as an advertisement for an industry he does not support.

Darren Halloran of the store Always in Vogue says Stewart and his entourage were informed and it's possible he wasn't aware of the politics surrounding the seal industry. Halloran says he's sorry Stewart is getting some criticism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Brown home invasion

Three armed men in masks forced their way into a Los Angeles home owned by Chris Brown, locked the R&B singer's aunt in a closet and then ransacked the place for valuables, police said.

Brown was not at the home during the robbery which happened around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Officer Liliana Preciado said. The suspects got away with an unknown amount of cash, electronics and personal items, she said. Brown's aunt was not hurt.

Investigators have not released descriptions of the suspects, who were armed with handguns and wore bandanas around their faces, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KARDASHIAN

Kim acts pregnant

Maybe it doesn't count as news that Kim Kardashian is being more than a little demanding while pregnant.

I mean, this is Kim Kardashian we're talking about. But apparently, even though she's not the most reasonable person on a normal day and has already been pregnant, this one is really standing out.

"She's started requesting that a chair be on hand at all times in case she gets tired of standing. She's also requesting to only fly private so she can have room to sprawl out — and because she doesn't want others around," a source tells In Touch. "She also has designer clothing custom-tailored — even jeans — to fit her pregnant body and make her look her best." NED EHRBAR/METRO

Kim Kardashian. GETTY IMAGES

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news
39 per cent of Canadian newcomers own property: Study

Spy before you buy that condo

SECURITY

Private Eye offers tips on assessing properties

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

It may be every condo owner's worst nightmare: To purchase a suite in a party building.

In a tragic incident in June, two men were shot dead in a west-end Toronto condo following a raucous party that lasted for days.

While most buildings are well run and safe, the anonymity of a big city makes it difficult to determine if your future home is a frat house, or worse. Buyers often make snap decisions on what is likely the largest purchase of their lives.

DIY detective work

To empower Canadian homebuyers to do their own detective work, real-estate brokerage TheRedPin recruited private investigator Dave Perry, a former Toronto homicide detective and co-founder of Investigative Solutions Network. He is regularly consulted to investigate investment neighbourhoods for a confidential roster of clients — and most recently, for his own daughter.

Perry offers some useful tips on how you can scope out your potential condo and surrounding neighbourhood. Communication plays a large part in your intelligence-gathering mission.

Doggie duty

Perry recommends taking your cute puppy for a walk around the neighbourhood.

"If I don't have my dog with me, people are far more reluctant to even say hello. But if you've got a dog, everybody wants to pet your dog. Then you can easily start a normal, healthy conversation about the health of the neighbourhood."

A lot of detective work can be done without ever leaving your home.

Try Googling the street address and search for media coverage of incidents in the area. You can avoid nightmare scenarios from nefarious activity lurking beneath the surface of an otherwise respectable condo.

"I like going to the news outlets because if there's a meth lab or prostitution or gang activity that can seep their way into some of the nicest condominiums in Toronto, it's usually going to end up in the newspaper," says Perry.

> **"I'd want to see the place in the evening, at 11 or 12 o'clock at night**
> Dave Perry, private investigator

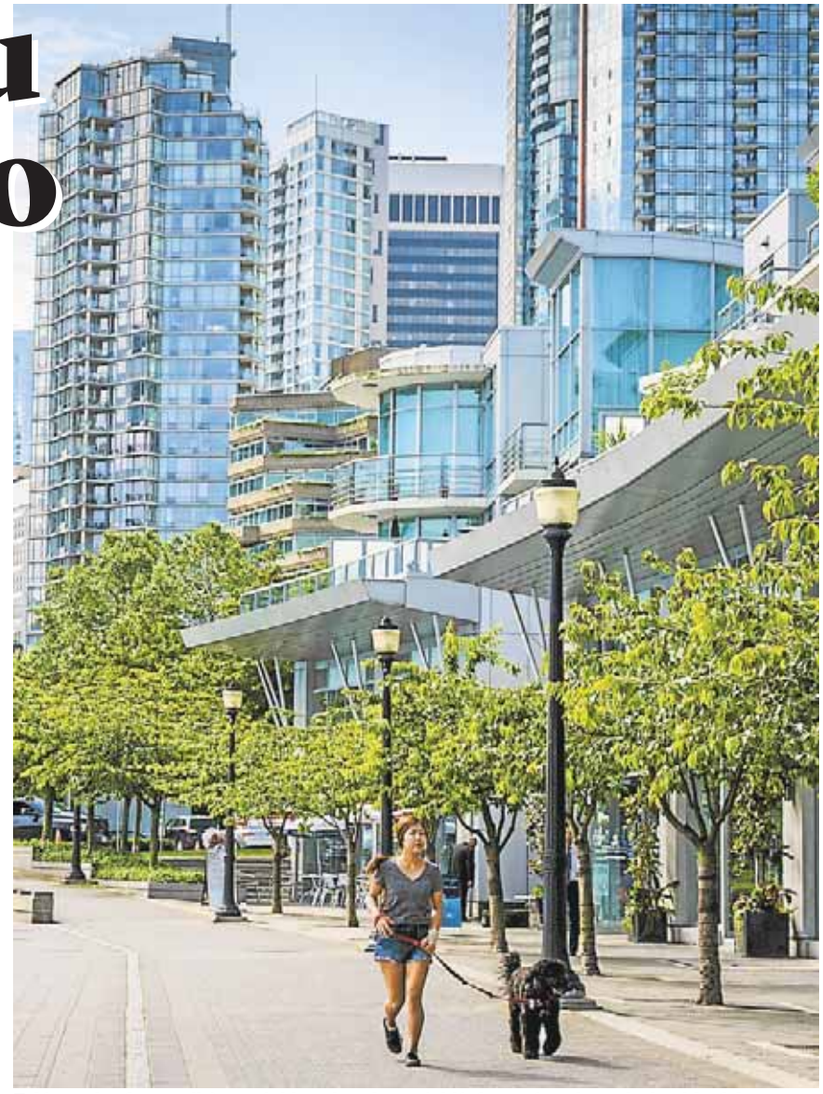
Night shift

During the day, people are on their best behaviour, and most parties happen at night.

"A lot of people make the mistake of going (to a property) midday, during the business day, when things tend to look a little brighter," says Perry.

Part of your reconnaissance mission will entail some nocturnal black ops.

"As a perspective buyer, you've got to get into your building and you've got to spend some time. I'd want to see the place in the evening, at 11 or 12 o'clock at night, even if you just got a realtor to let you in and to inspect the building and get the vibe of what it's like at night."



Taking a dog for a walk in a neighbourhood can yield information about the health of the area, says private investigator Dave Perry. ISTOCK

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ADVICE

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LEGAL MATTERS

Jeffrey Cowan

Q: My son bought two condos in 2011 at which time he had not owned any property and so claimed the first-time homebuyer rebate with respect to Land Transfer Tax offered by the Province of Ontario. I recently received a letter from the Ontario Ministry of Finance disallowing these rebates, along with penalties and interest. It stated in its assessment that because my son had not moved into the first property, he was not eligible for the rebate. Then with the second property, which he moved into, the Ministry stated he was no longer a first-time homebuyer. What can be done in this instance?

Unfortunately, your son will owe the government

A: In Ontario, in order to qualify for the first-time homebuyer land transfer tax rebate, you have to be a first-time homebuyer and you have to move into the property within nine months of the closing date. Because your son did not do this, he is not eligible for the rebate. The second transaction is clearly a second purchase and therefore does not qualify for the first-timer rebate. Unfortunately, your son will owe the government both rebates that had been claimed, along with the penalty and interest on the outstanding taxes.

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Potential buyers of SPICE Urban Towns can visit the sales centre at 3194 Danforth Ave. by appointment only until the grand opening. CONTRIBUTED

Towns add SPICE to Danforth

Project overview

Coming soon to Danforth Road, SPICE Urban Towns is a new townhome development composed of an intimate enclave of bungalow and two-storey urban towns and rooftop terrace designs.

Building amenities

The development features rooftop terraces with barbecue gas lines included for upper units. The kitchen has a stainless-steel appliance package and for a limited time, a parking space and locker will be included in the purchase price.

NEED TO KNOW

What: SPICE Urban Towns
Builder: Hi-Rise (West) Inc.
Architects: Kohn Partnership Architects Inc.
Interiors: Bryon Patton and Associates
Location: 35 Danforth Rd.
Building: 116 stacked townhomes
Sizes: From 739 to 1,029 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting at $354,900
Suites: Two bedroom plus den, three bedroom plus roof terraces
Status: Pre-selling
Occupancy: September 2017
Sales centre: 3194 Danforth Ave.
Info: spiceondanforth.com, 416-932-3443

Location and transit

SPICE is located on a unique triangle bordered by Danforth Avenue, Danforth Road and Warden Avenue. The transit-friendly building is situated along TTC bus routes, with the Warden and Victoria Park subway stations and Danforth GO train station minutes away.

In the neighbourhood

With a walk score of 79, the neighbourhood has lots to offer. Think ethnic and international cuisine, cafés and nightclubs, as well as a variety of stores, shops and boutiques. Schools, day care, parks and services are also within walking distance.

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* Calculations shown are based on best rates available today of 2.64% 5-yr. fixed rate mortgage amortized over 30 years, and are for demonstration purposes only. Actual mortgage rates and payments are subject to change at any time without notice.

What they're a$king

OUR CITY

When families outgrow inner-city condos, the next step is to seek a single-family dwelling. Townhomes or bungalows in the suburbs are a popular option. Here's a selection of three-bedroom modern bungalows outside the city core. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

$1,249,000

Toronto

Here's a special home in the Wentworth community in West Lansing. This double-brick, fully insulated home at 284 Burnett Ave. boasts a double garage, a huge master suite with a renovated bathroom, heated floors and a walk-in closet. The bright, open living areas include a modern kitchen with granite bar and new, stainless-steel appliances. Outside is a fenced-in pool and maintenance-free lawn. The property is close to the Burnett Woods, Cameron public school, and a walk to the subway. Listing agent is Ora Ross with The Mulholland Ross Team, 416-230-8500.

$1,090,000

Halifax

Here's a unique rancher-style bungalow located on a waterfront lot at 80 Joan Elizabeth Way at Sandy Point Estates. This custom-built home boasts plenty of natural light and many high-end features, plus an open-concept layout, highlighted by exotic hardwood and slate tile throughout. The home features a cherry-wood kitchen with granite counters and built-in appliances. The great room has an airtight, wood-burning fireplace and great views of the water. The master bedroom has a five-piece marble ensuite. Listing agent is Thomas Bagogloo with Re/Max Nova, 902-830-9006.

$705,000

Vancouver

Modern bungalows aren't very common in B.C. Here's a nice one in the Fraser Heights neighbourhood of North Surrey. This rancher-style home at 10586 Glenwood Dr. N. sold at press time for $705,000. Listing agent Michael Quesnel says it's a charming home on a really great street. The former Pacific National Exhibition show home has vaulted ceilings, a three-bedroom, three-bathroom layout, and more than 2,000 sq. ft. on a level lot. Outdoors is a covered living space, fenced-in yard and a garage. Quesnel is with Royal LePage Sussex, West Vancouver, 604-925-2911.

Pros know and handle renovating regulations

Bryan Tuckey

Homeowners across Canada spend close to $68 billion renovating their homes, according to a new study by Altus Group.

It's understandable because as property values increase across the nation and here in the GTA, many people are choosing to stay and renovate their current home instead of moving.

Measures to improve a home can quickly go beyond what you can do on your own. When you work with a professional renovator, you can renovate with confidence knowing that you're working with someone who understands the rules and regulations that go along with home construction.

Professionals such as the RenoMark renovator and trade contractor members of our association have a strong knowledge of municipal by-laws as well as the Ontario Building Code — two detailed sets of rules that guide projects large and small.

Codes and bylaws come into play when renovating. ISTOCK

They also abide by the Association's Code of Ethics and a renovator-specific Code of Conduct, which you can view at renomark.ca. As part of their work to advocate for their clients and consumers in general, some of our renovator members meet with municipal staff and local councillors to educate them and provide real-time examples of project demands and how process delays can affect timelines.

It's important to understand that most home renovations will require municipal building permits and a professional renovator can assist in acquiring them. They will also co-ordinate and schedule a team of trades that work on different aspects of your home at different times.

A delay in permit approvals can cost time and money. Our members work with the city to improve the communication flow and keep projects on schedule and within budget.

Working with a professional can help you make the right decisions to increase the comfort and value of your home. Search our database of professional RenoMark renovators by geography and by project type at renomark.ca.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 WATERFRONT

Open house: This two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo suite will be shown this weekend for lease or for sale. Head over to 88 Palace Pier Crt., on Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: ANIA BASKA, 416-847-0920

2 DOWNTOWN

Now registering: 158 Front condominiums in the St. Lawrence Market district. Get an exclusive first look at this new development in the heart of Toronto's first neighbourhood.

CONTACT: INFO@158FRONT.COM

3 MIMICO

Open house: View nine suite layouts at the new Eleven Superior condominiums, near Mimico's waterfront. Head to 11 Superior Ave., Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: STANLEY BERNARDO, 905-275-9400

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How to nail it with home art

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

Make every room a gallery with these tips — in no time, you'll be hanging framed works like a pro

Q: I just moved into a condo and want to start hanging photos, art and mirrors on the walls of the bedroom, den and hallway. Are their any guidelines to arranging? I like the collage effect but not sure where to begin. — Carole, Toronto

A: Here are my Top 20 rules for hanging art and mirrors throughout the home:

BEDROOMS

1. The overall size of art over a bed should be 2/3 the width of the headboard.
2. The bottom of the art should be hung 6 inches above a tall headboard and about 10-12 inches above a low headboard.
3. Hang art over the nightstands at a different height to the art hung over the headboard; the bottom of the art should be about 12 inches above the top of the nightstand.
4. Consider a large or tall decorative mirror and also use it as a dressing mirror.
5. Art should follow the shape of the top of your headboard.

Hanging art over a large piece of furniture? Make sure the art is about 2/3 the width of the furniture and the bottom of the art hangs 6-10 inches from the top of the piece. CRATE AND BARREL

HALLWAYS

6. If hanging artwork gallery-style in a hall, the middle of the art should hang 66 inches from the floor.
7. No need to hang a different-sized art so the bottoms all line up evenly; centre each piece 66 inches from the floor.
8. To create a collage, arrange the large/heaviest piece in the middle and the smallest outward.
9. Look at the wall space between two doorways. If it's more vertical, then stack artwork vertically in that space.
10. Hang a large floor mirror opposite a doorway to make the hall appear wider at that point.
11. Track-style lighting (directed at art on side walls of a hall) will draw your eyes to the art and make the hallway look wider.

LIVING ROOM

12. The bottom of artwork or mirrors hung over a fireplace should be 3-6 inches above the top of the mantel.
13. Have little wall space in your floor-to-ceiling condo? Consider using an artist easel to display art in the corners.
14. Artwork over a sofa should fill 2/3 of the sofa's width.
15. Hang personal photos and memorabilia in more private areas, such as bedroom and dens.

DOs AND DON'Ts

16. DO hang artwork low. The lower you hang art, the higher ceilings will appear.
17. DO NOT hang art in relationship to tall ceilings in your home — always hang in relationship the floor.
18. DO add a ceiling spotlight or a picture light to highlight the artwork you want to use as the focal point in a room.
19. DO use mirrors to visually help widen a room or reflect light around the space.
20. DO NOT use more than three finishes of framing for any given area.

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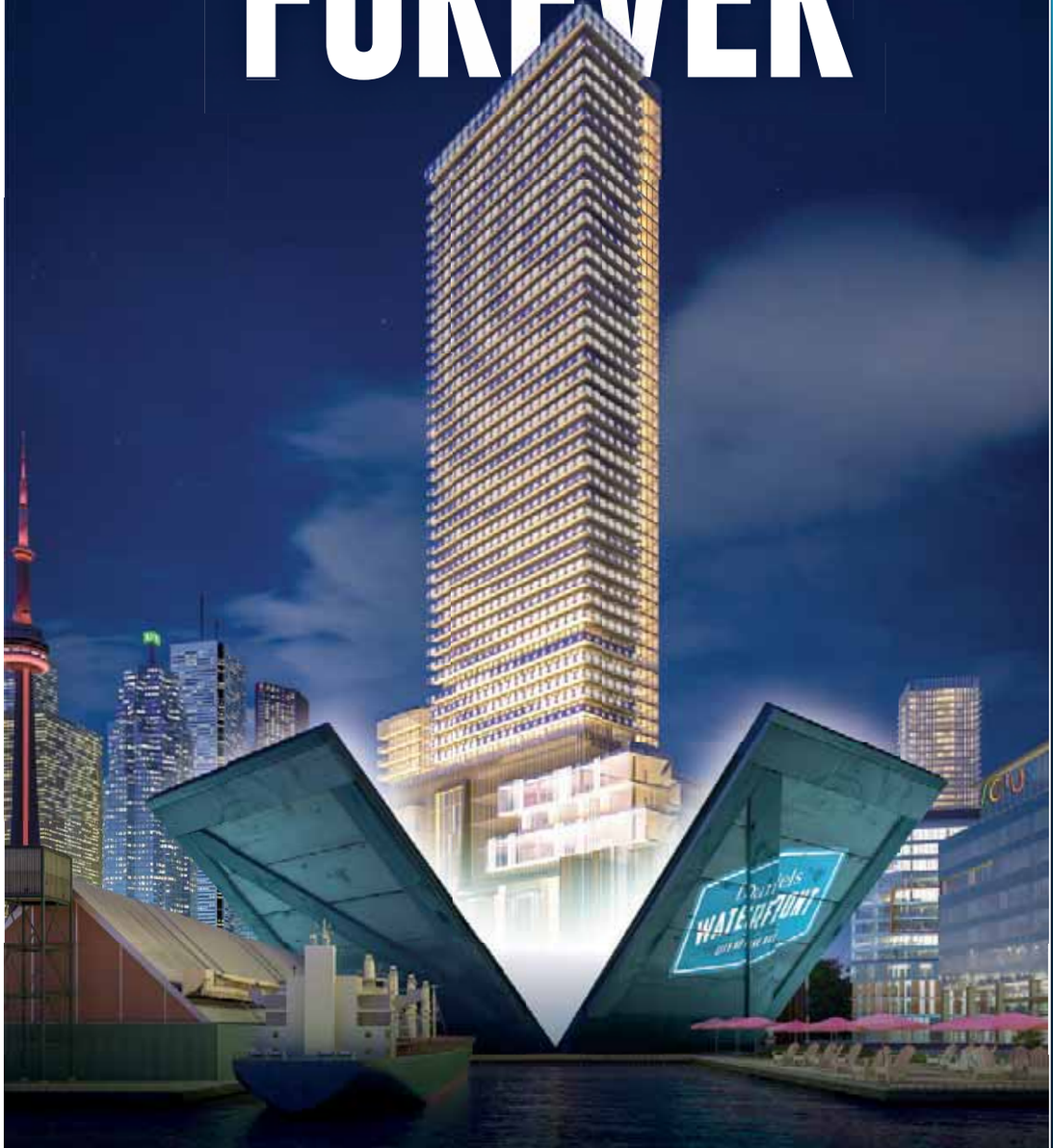

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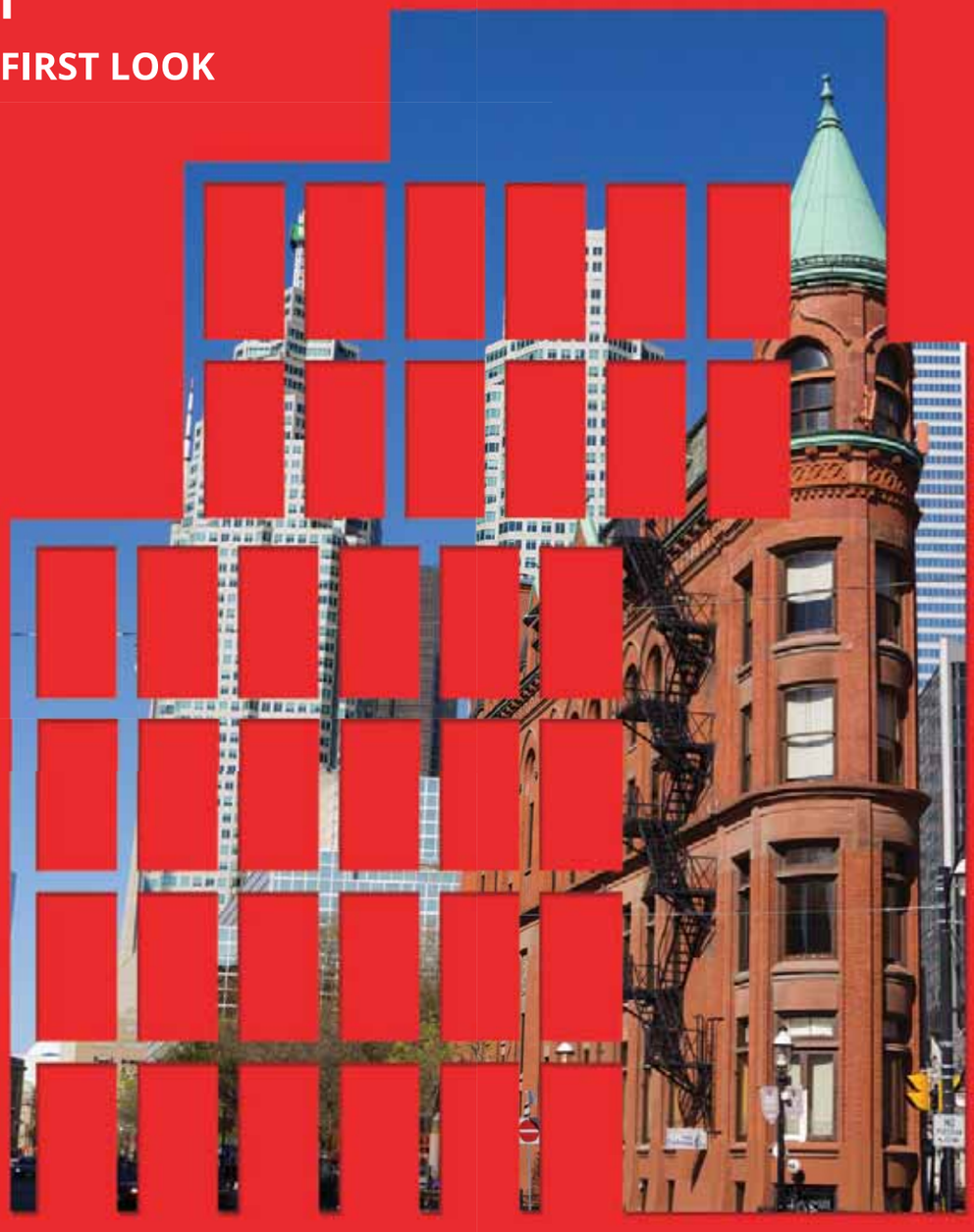

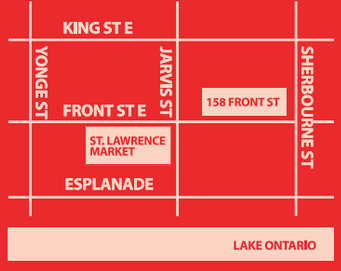

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metro SPORTS

Kara Lang, Jim Brennan and Pat Onstad highlight the Canada Soccer Hall of Fame Class of 2015

Halifax's Ellie Black performs her floor routine in Toronto on Wednesday. MARTA IWANEK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada strikes Black gold again

PAN AM 2015

Halifax star takes medal tally to five

It took just five days of competition at the 2015 Pan American Games for Canada to eclipse its gold-medal total from four years ago.

Canadian athletes won eight more gold medals on Wednesday, giving the host nation 33 overall.

Canada won 30 gold medals total over 16 days at the 2011 Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Halifax gymnast Ellie Black and Canada's rowing team contributed multiple gold medals Wednesday, while Calgary shooter Lynda Kiejko won her second gold of the Games.

In swimming, Kierra Smith and Hilary Caldwell led Canada to a pair of one-two finishes as the national swimming team took seven medals.

Smith, from Kelowna, B.C., won gold in the 200-metre women's breaststroke in a Pan Am record time of two minutes 24.38 seconds while Toronto's Martha McCabe finished 0.13 seconds back to take silver.

Caldwell, from White Rock B.C., set a Pan Am record in the 200 backstroke, winning in 2:08.22. Dominique Bouchard of North Bay, Ont., was second in 2:09.74.

Black won gold in the women's balance-beam competition and in the floor exercise, giving her five medals in five events.

Black nailed her balance-beam routine with a score of 15.050 at the highest difficulty level. After her floor exercise routine that got her a score of 14.400, she blew kisses to the Toronto crowd as fans roared and waved Canadian flags.

> **This was more than I expected. This has been incredible.**
> Ellie Black

Earlier in the Games, the 19-year-old won gold in the all-around, bronze in the vault and earned silver in the team event.

"The support here has been amazing," Black said. "I was so proud of our team coming in silver, and individually in my finals I was not expecting half of this. So thank you to everyone."

Canada earned a medal in four of five races, including three gold, on the final day of rowing competition at the Royal Canadian Henley course in St. Catharines, Ont. The men's lightweight coxless fours, the men's eight and the women's quadruple sculls all topped the podium, while Rob Gibson of Kingston, Ont., added a silver in men's single sculls.

The men's eights led from start to finish, finishing three seconds ahead of Argentina with a time of six minutes 7.01 seconds.

The eights crew included all four members of the gold-medal-winning men's coxless four from earlier in the meet.

Kiejko swept the women's pistol events with a win in the women's 25 metres.

The Calgary native beat Sandra Uptagrafft 7-3 in the final round to earn Canada's third shooting gold of the Games.

Kiejko also won gold in the 10-metre air pistol on Sunday.

"I don't think words can actually describe how excited and just ecstatic I am right now," she said. "I was coming into this event with it not being my forte. I have no words. I am over the moon right now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Owning the podium

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Around the Toronto area. In addition to Ellie Black's two gold medals on Wednesday, Canada also topped the podium in women's quad sculls, from top, women's 25-metre pistol, men's lightweight four and men's eights rowing. Canada also added two more gold in the swimming pool in the evening.

Go to **metronews.ca** for more coverage of the Pan Am Games.

COURTESY TEAM CANADA

AARON LYNETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant reeled in a league-best 16 receiving touchdowns in 2014. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Bryant hauls in $70M deal

NFL

All-Pro receiver and Cowboys end standoff with 5-year pact

> **It's a life-changer for him, but he's worked to get it.**
> Cowboys owner Jerry Jones

Dez Bryant and the Dallas Cowboys have the long-term contract both sides said they wanted during a long stalemate that came right up against the deadline to get a deal done.

The All-Pro receiver signed the five-year, $70-million deal Wednesday, less than an hour before he would have run out of time to play under anything other than a one-year agreement in 2015.

A person close to the negotiations provided contract terms to The Associated Press because they weren't announced. The deal, which includes $45 million in guaranteed money, is similar to one that Denver receiver Demaryius Thomas got at about the same time as Bryant.

The 26-year-old Bryant, who led the NFL in receiving touchdowns with 16 last season, had threatened to skip training camp and regular-season games without a contract to replace the $12.8-million offer for one year he had under the franchise tag.

Once the sides got close enough, Bryant rode to the team's Valley Ranch headquarters. He was pictured there signing the contract with his son in his arms.

"I smiled the whole way over here. I couldn't even say nothing but just smile and laugh, because I couldn't believe it," Bryant said in a story on the team's website. "All I could just think about is that it's a dream — a dream come true. I think the only thing that's missing is a Super Bowl."

Boasting one of the NFL's best offensive lines, the Cowboys believed they could let running back DeMarco Murray walk in free agency. But the prospect of playing without Bryant was more daunting. He has more catches (381), yards (5,424) and touchdowns (56) through five years than any receiver in franchise history — a list that includes Hall of Famers Michael Irvin and Bob Hayes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEADLINE DEALS

The Kansas City Chiefs ended up with a big bargain the last time they signed Justin Houston. This time, it's the star linebacker who's cashing in.

Houston became the highest-paid linebacker in NFL history Wednesday when he agreed to a six-year, $101-million contract, over half of which is guaranteed, hours before the Wednesday deadline for players who had franchise tags to sign long-term deals.

Houston has made three consecutive Pro Bowls and recorded 22 sacks last season. He has made roughly $3 million over the course of his rookie contract.

Meanwhile, Demaryius Thomas's new five-year $70-million contract with the Broncos is the biggest in franchise history, and includes $43.5 million guaranteed.

Justin Houston THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NHL

Kesler feeling at home in Anaheim

Centre Ryan Kesler got comfortable quickly with the Anaheim Ducks, and the club let him know the feeling is definitely mutual.

The veteran centre agreed to a six-year, $41.25-million US contract extension with the Ducks on Wednesday, cementing a long-term commitment after just one season together.

> **We were one game away from going to the final, and that experience will help us next year.**
> Ryan Kesler

"I definitely feel a part of the core group now," Kesler said. "They wanted me, and I wanted to stay." Kesler had 20 goals, 27 assists and 75 penalty minutes last year in Anaheim after spending his first nine NHL seasons with the Vancouver Canucks. The hard-nosed U.S. Olympian filled a key role as the Ducks' second-line centre while matching up defensively against many teams' top scorers.

Kesler also had seven goals and six assists in a standout playoff effort as the three-time Pacific Division champion Ducks fell one game short of the Stanley Cup Final, losing to Chicago in the Western Conference final. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Raps sign second-round draft pick Powell

The Toronto Raptors have signed 2015 draft pick Norman Powell.

Toronto selected the six-foot-four, 215-pound guard in the second round, 46th overall.

Norman Powell GETTY IMAGES

Powell is averaging a team-leading 19.3 points and is shooting 22-for-37 (.595) from the field through three Summer League games.

Powell appeared in 141 games over four seasons at UCLA and averaged a career-high 16.4 points in 2014-15. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dos Santos latest big star in LA's Galaxy

MLS

Mexican has fine career at international and club level

Giovani dos Santos is the next star lighting up the LA Galaxy. The defending MLS Cup champions signed the versatile Mexican attacker Wednesday, bolstering their already powerful lineup with another international talent.

The 26-year-old dos Santos spent the last two seasons with Spain's Villarreal, scoring 12 goals in 58 La Liga appearances.

He has played professionally in Europe since his childhood — turning out for Spanish giants Barcelona and Premier League outfit Tottenham Hotspur — but dos Santos also has played for Mexico in two World Cups during eight years with El Tri.

"Giovani is a special player," said Bruce Arena, the Galaxy's coach and general manager. "He has success competing at the highest level, and we believe he will only continue to develop."

After four years of courting dos Santos, the Galaxy finally signed the highest-profile Mexican star in the club's history to a designated player contract, paying a reported $7-million transfer fee. Along with dos Santos' playmaking skills, the MLS power hopes he'll attract new fans for the Galaxy among Southern California's large Latino population and in Mexico.

"He's a player that the world has known and he's a player that we've known about for some time," said Galaxy president Chris Klein. They added English midfielder Steven Gerrard to their lineup last week, but dos Santos could slot perfectly into the playmaking role vacated by Landon Donovan last winter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Villarreal's forward Giovani dos Santos has signed for MLS side LA Galaxy. The Mexican has played for some of Europe's biggest clubs, including Barcelona JOSE JORDAN/AFP

MLS

TFC keeper Konopka fined and suspended

Toronto FC goalkeeper Chris Konopka has been suspended one match and fined for "serious foul play that endangered the safety of an opponent."

The incident occurred in the 59th minute of Toronto's 4-4 tie with New York City FC on Sunday at Yankee Stadium. Konopka brought down Andoni Iraola as the Spaniard raced into the six-yard box.

The Toronto goalie appeared to kick out his legs in taking Iraola down. There was no foul on the play, although Iraola was booked a minute later when, after getting treatment, he returned to the field without permission from the referee.

The league did not disclose the amount of Konopka's fine.

The suspension offers Joe Bendik, last year's starter, a chance to reclaim his No. 1 job this Saturday against the visiting Philadelphia Union. Konopka took over this season after Bendik was sidelined with a foot injury. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EPL IN BRIEF

United to sell keeper Valdes

Victor Valdes' stint at Manchester United is going to be brief.

United manager Louis van Gaal said Wednesday the club intends to sell Valdes after the former Barcelona and Spanish national team goalkeeper failed to follow the club's philosophy. Valdes was noticeably absent from United's roster for its preseason tour of the United States that opens on Friday night against Mexico's Club America in Seattle.

"He was not selected because he did not follow our philosophy," van Gaal said. Van Gaal said at one point last season, Valdes refused to play for United's second-team when he wasn't getting playing time with the first-team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Prep time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 cup barbecue sauce, heated
- 4 cups diced cooked chicken, leftover or rotisserie
- 1/3 cup diced green onions
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley
- 3 cups packaged coleslaw mixture
- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 6 hamburger buns, toasted
- 6 pieces romaine lettuce
- 6 slices tomato

Directions
1. Combine hot BBQ sauce, chicken, green onions and cilantro in a bowl.

2. Separately, combine coleslaw, mayonnaise and vinegar in a bowl.

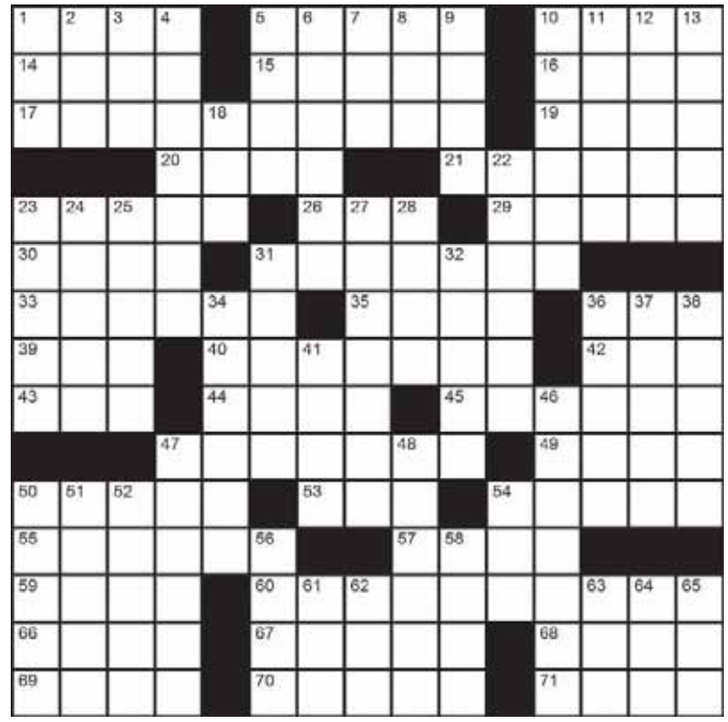
3. Place lettuce and tomato on bottom of buns. Divide chicken mixture over top and then coleslaw.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 301
- Protein 32.5 g
- Carbohydrates 47 g
- Fat 4.1 g
- Saturated fat 0.3 g
- Cholesterol 44 mg
- Sodium 698 mg
- Fibre 7 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. _ Gold (Canadian brand of pretzels since 1917)
5. Singer known for her numbered albums
10. Outfit
14. Cream-filled cookie
15. Red carpet cars
16. Away from the wind, at sea
17. Party mix pieces: 2 wds.
19. Lemon's friend
20. Slacken
21. Cream-filled pastry
23. Sculptor of ancient Athens known for the Discus Thrower
26. Bar drink
29. Party givers
30. Hairdo
31. "Hurdy Gurdy Man" singer
33. Hearty laugh
35. Shades
36. Morn's follower
39. Gwen's "Rich Girl" collaborator
40. Rebels/rule breakers
42. Former bird of New Zealand
43. 'Ballad' suffix
44. Thaw
45. The _: Canadian punk band known for "New York City"
47. Type of grill
49. Burden
50. Bustling
53. The Guess _
54. Literary genre
55. Billy's beard?
57. Canadian comedian Caroline
59. Long-range weapon, commonly
60. Canadian invented kitchen gadget to zest oranges, grate garlic, etc.
66. Bug type
67. Rarified fluid in the veins of ancient Greek gods
68. Prime Minister William _ Mackenzie King (b.1874 - d.1950)
69. Fork-tailed sea bird
70. "You _" by Alanis Morissette
71. Archery bow trees

DOWN
1. Steal
2. Parry Sound, Ontario-born hockey legend Bobby
3. Grazing grassland
4. Fall asleep: 2 wds.
5. Shakespeare's _ Well That Ends Well
6. Money, informally
7. Flightless flapper
8. Batch
9. Latin 'being'
10. Gas quantity
11. Old Jennifer Garner series
12. Send payment
13. Labatt products
18. Canadian singer/songwriter Mr. Tyson
22. Ballerina's gliding step
23. The Cremation of Sam _ (Yukon-set poem by Robert Service)
24. James Taylor hit: "_ Got a Friend"
25. More abundant
27. Disconnect the trailer from the car
28. Grimace
31. Dork
32. Rigoletto opera composer
34. Like, as a work of art
36. _ acid
37. Concentrate
38. Cup, in a Montreal restaurant
41. Imperfection
46. Respectably/virtuously
47. Bret "The _" Hart, Canadian wrestling legend
48. Shriek!-inducing film genre
50. Don't look _ _ horse in the mouth
51. Architectural base
52. Southern Alberta town
54. Sprightliness
56. Early filmdom's Mr. Jannings
58. Highway honker
61. Frozen stuff
62. Pussycat Dolls hit: "Don't _"
63. Pirate's positive
64. This moment
65. Nav. rank

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Forget about the past, it is over and done with. Only the future counts and today's new moon means the future starts for you right here and right now.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You need to come out of your shell and remind the world that you exist. Don't limit yourself to the tried and tested: the more you experiment the more likely it is you will find what you are looking for – and others will value your worth.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The new moon indicates that if someone makes you an offer of a financial nature it is most likely on the level and should be seriously considered.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Others may doubt that you are on the right track but with the new moon on your side you will win them over before the end of the day. This is your time of year.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do what makes you happy rather than what makes friends and family happy. If you don't feel like socializing or travelling or communicating over the next 24 hours, then don't.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Do you change with the times or do you expect the times to change for you? The latter isn't going to happen, of course, so forget it and get to work on a project that will dovetail nicely with the new world you find yourself in.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today's new moon will give you the courage to stand up and take charge. What happens over the next 24 hours could change the working course of your life dramatically.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't worry about minor matters today because it is the big picture you should be looking at now. Take an overview of what is happening, both in your personal affairs and in the world at large. What you see will surely delight you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Focus on what is truly important today: your long-term financial security. What you begin over the next 24 hours will pay big dividends in the not-too-distant future.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will have to work hard to overcome some sort of challenge today. But anyone who thinks they are tough enough to take you on and win will soon be nursing their wounds!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You must be pragmatic and deal with each situation as it arises and on its own terms. There is no point complaining about those who are dragging their feet or doing things the wrong way.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Amazing things will happen for no apparent reason over the next 24 hours. The new moon is well and truly on your side. Creatively and romantically you can do no wrong.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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®/™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. *Based on the 2009-2015 Global Automakers of Canada (GAC) Sales report. ΔBased on January to July 2015 Elantra Sedan offers available. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services base on a new 2015 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Sonata Hybrid Base with an annual finance rate of 2.9%/0%. Weekly payments are $68/$150 for 96/36 months. $0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $3,293/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,795/$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Financing example: 2015 Sonata Hybrid Base for $23,327 at 0% per annum equals $150 weekly for 36 months for a total obligation of $23,327. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $23,327. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance example includes Delivery and Destination of $1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. ΩPrice adjustments of up to $5,000/$4,000/$3,000/$3,832/$7,000 available on all new 2015 Elantra Sedan/Elantra GT/Accent/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Sonata Hybrid models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Elantra Sport Appearance Package/Elantra GT SE Tech/Accent 5-Door GLS Auto/Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD are $21,476/$28,527/$21,277/$41,777. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,595/$1,795, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Elantra Sport Appearance Package Auto (HWY 6.3L/100KM; City 8.5L/100KM); 2015 Elantra GT SE Tech (HWY 7.2L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2015 Accent 5-Door Auto GLS (HWY 6.3L/100KM; City 8.9L/100KM); 2015 Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD (HWY 9.8L/100KM; City 12.9L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦ΩOffers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.